MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MARCH 1981

Iran

Khomeyni Address to Majlis Deputies--In a speech during a meeting with Majlis deputies at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran, a recording of which was broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni made a plea for unselfish action to save the country "at a time when all are our enemies." If each individual were to move in the same direction, he said, no differences could possibly arise. He added that if people could learn to overlook their own desires and work for God, no quarrels or disputes would occur, and he specifically mentioned those who are "influential among the masses" in this regard. Khomeyni concluded with a call for all to work and cooperate for the "Islamic nation" in the new year.

Rafsanjani Speech--During the Majlis deputies' meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani also made a speech, a recording of which was broadcast by Tehran radio. He stressed that the revolution's enemies have been trying to discredit and disrupt Iran's revolutionary organizations, headed by the Majlis. Anyone who has been responsible for recent tensions and clashes, "whether he be an ignorant friend or a willful enemy,' has been party to a "conspiracy," Rafsanjani added. These conspiracies have become more serious in recent weeks, he stressed, but Khomeyni's guidelines have "reaffirmed the gains" of the year and "caused despair" among the enemy. He went on to express hope that in the coming year shortcomings will be corrected and tension will be eliminated.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

According to Tehran radio, Iranian Navy and Air Force units blew up an Iraqi "warship" in the Persian Gulf, and exchanges of artillery fire continued on southern and western fronts. The radio also claimed that Iranian forces launched an attack in the Gilan-e Gharb region, killing a large number of Iraqis. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, claimed that Iraqi forces launched the attack, in which 35 Iranians were killed.

Israel

Jerusalem television reported that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres held a lengthy and "intimate" talk with King Hassan II in Morocco on 19 March and also conferred in London on 17 March with one of Jordanian King Husayn's brothers, whom the television did not name. According to the report, Peres told King Hassan that if the Israeli Alignment won power he would seek a speedy conclusion to the autonomy talks and try to coordinate with Saudi Arabia on finding a solution to the Jerusalem problem. During his London talks, the report added, Peres "received the impression" that Jordan does not categorically reject the Jordanian option. According to the newspaper DAVAR, Peres told journalists on his return from Europe that he did not meet with "Arab personalities or other politicians in Europe." The Labor Party spokesman, the paper added, said the story of Peres' meeting with "Arab leaders" was "manipulated by the Likud," and he denied that Peres is conducting "negotiations with Arab political elements." According to the Moroccan news agency MAP, the Moroccan minister of information has issued a "categorical" denial of reports that King Hassan "is supposed to have met" with Peres "on Thursday in Marrakech."

Afghanistan

Afghan Foreign Ministry officials and security authorities held a press conference, reported by Kabul radio, in which they criticized Pakistan for making "false claims" about the actions taken by the DRA while the recently hijacked Pakistani airliner was in Kabul. Asserting that it was in fact the Pakistani Government that "neglected its obligations" from the start, the officials pointed out that Pakistani authorities allowed people carrying weapons to board the plane and delayed solving the problem for almost 2 weeks. The Afghan authorities, on the other hand, fulfilled all their obligations to protect the lives of the hostages and obtained the release of the women and children.

Replying to the Pakistani accusation that DRA authorities adopted a "compromising" attitude toward the hijackers, the officials said that they made every effort to avoid provoking them. A BAKHTAR report on the press conference termed "ludicrous" the Pakistani claim that Afghanistan provided the hijackers with arms. The report added that the Pakistani Government made these claims against Afghanistan in order to achieve political gains and crush its domestic political opponents.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KHALAF WFDY SPEECH CRITICIZES EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

NC200926 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has stated that any Middle East initiative which disregards the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state and disregards the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, will fail. Abu Iyad was speaking at a rally on solidarity with the Palestinian people which was organized by the World Democratic Youth Federation at Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir hall at the Arab university of Beirut. The rally was attended by Muhsin Ibrahim, the executive secretary general of the national movement's central political council, and 120 delegations representing 80 countries.

At the outset of his speech Abu Iyad welcomed the delegations saying: Yesterday you expressed solidarity with the Lebanese people in the south and today you are expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian revolution. I can tell you from the joint position of fighting and blood that your solidarity with the Lebanese and Palestinian people represents solidarity with one people.

Abu Iyad asked: Have the Camp David agreements brought peace to our people and the Lebanese people? Answering his question, he said: We do not fight for the sake of fighting and we do not want war for the mere sake of war; but where is this peace?

He added: It is claimed that the so-called European initiative is the way to peace. We ask: Where is this initiative? What they [the EEC states] said in their Venice declaration is nothing but small words, which do not represent the right of our people or give them the right to establish their independent state. We wish that they, the Europeans, were able to keep these simple words. Former U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie came to undermine these words 1 week after the Venice declaration.

Referring to the proposals by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Abu Iyad said: Why did we welcome in principle the initiative that Comrade Brezhnev raised at the 26th CPSU Congress? We did so because this initiative contains two basic things: It says that the Palestinian people have the right to determine their future and that they are entitled to have their own state and homeland. It also says that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Abu Iyad added: If we analyze all the UN solutions or the solutions that the Security Council submitted in its Resolution 242 or those through the United States and the Camp David accord, we will find that the basic factors of a solution--the right of the Palestinian people to have a state and the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of this people--are not mentioned in these solutions. This is why they failed and will fail in the future.

Comrade Muhsin Ibrahim then addressed the rally on behalf of the Lebanese national movement. He said that the national movement will continue to fight alongside the Palestinian revolution in order to foil the plan on establishing regarding the establishment of a second Israel in Lebanon and to confront the continuing Israeli aggression.

FARUQ QADDUMI VISITS ITALY, VATICAN FOR TALKS

For Rome Radio and ANSA reportage on the visit of PLO diplomatic chief Faruq Qaddumi to Italy and the Vatican, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 19 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Meeting With Foreign Minister

JN191938 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1845 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met with the Italian foreign minister and discussed the situation in the Middle East with him.

In a statement after the meeting Brother Abu al-Lutf said that any international initiative on solving the Middle East crisis would be rejected unless it considers the demands of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and establish their independent national state.

ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION SETS DIALOGUE GUIDELINES

LD181557 Algiers AS-SHA'B in Arabic 13-14 Mar 81 p 3

["Summary" of recommendations by the second committee set up by the Arab Parliamentary Union conference in Algiers during its meeting 9-21 March: "The Palestine Problem Is the Essence of the Arab Problem"]

[Text] The second committee charged [by the Arab Parliamentary Union conference] with developing parliamentary dialogue with world parliamentary groups and associations approved the general secretariat's memorandum on this subject entitled "Dialogue With Other Parliamentary Groups in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Socialist Camp."

The committee recommended that dialogue should be guided by the following principles:

That the Palestine problem is the essence of the Arab problem and the basis of the conflict in the Middle East and that peace can be achieved only on the basis of total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories, recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights and confirmation of the principle of recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;

Rejection of Security Council Resolution 242 and the Camp David accords;

The invalidity of bilateral and collective economic agreements with the Zionist entity in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories;

Drawing attention to the dangerous nature of the Israeli Labor Party political program and exposing the party's historical role which is responsible for consolidating the Zionist policy

Drawing attention to the danger of the Zionist attacks on Lebanon and the Lebanese people, causing the eviction of population from southern Lebanon so as to facilitate its occupation;

Noninterference in the domestic affairs of the Arab area and rejection of all forms of foreign military bases, concentrations and facilities in the area;

Rejection of any form of dialogue aimed at dividing the Arab homeland and the Arab ranks;

Adoption of the principle of linkage between the political and economic aspects in the dialogue and advocacy of the establishment of a new world economic order that would ensure the developing countries their right to their natural wealth and to exploit such wealth for the benefit of their own peoples.

The committee has also recommended to the chairmanship and general secretariat of the Arab Parliamentary Union that it organize parliamentary delegations in order to carry out this program in consultation with the union's parliamentary branches and members.

The committee also submitted to the parliamentary conference a special resolution on the European Parliament's reception of As-Sadat and the situation of the Arab-European dialogue expressing astonishment at the attitude adopted by the European Parliament in taking an initiative that is suspicious and unfriendly toward the Arab nation, namely inviting As-Sadat, who advocates a policy condemned by the whole Arab homeland.

The Arab Parliamentary Union conference also rejects any recommendation that the Egyptian regime should participate in the Arab-European dialogue and considers such a recommendation serious interference in internal Arab affairs which must be rejected.

SEMINAR AFFIRMS LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY

NC191105 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The seminar on solidarity with the Lebanese people has adopted a final declaration in which 120 delegations, representing 80 countries, proclaimed their solidarity with the people and youth of Lebanon and its national movement against partition plans and fascist domination. They proclaimed their support for Lebanon's unity, its national independence, its democratic progress and its Arab affiliation.

The seminar also affirmed its solidarity with the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, and its support for the joint Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian struggle against the reactionary U.S.-Zionist campaign and for defeating the Camp David plan.

ISLAMIC BANK OFFICIAL OUTLINES PROJECT FUNDING

LD171139 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 14 Mar 81 p 1

[Turki an-Nasir as-Sudayri report: "Islamic Bank Finances Projects in 13 States With $420 Million"]

[Text] An Islamic Bank official source has told AR-RIYAD that the bank is financing a number of projects and investments in more than 13 Islamic states and that the sums allocated for these projects are in excess of $420 million.

The source said that the projects include financing imports of oil and oil by-products, cement, construction materials, fertilizers and raw materials as well as the building of cement factories, petroleum complexes and other projects.

The countries that have benefited from such loans include Turkey, Tunisia, Cameroon, Pakistan, the PDRY, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Algeria, Niger, Bangladesh, Morocco, Sudan and Senegal.

The source said that the bank has also allocated $800 million for industrial, agricultural and social development projects in the bank member states which total 42 countries.

KUWAIT

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES BAN ON TWA LIFTED FOR 6 MONTHS

GF200933 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] The customs department on Thursday announced that it has lifted a ban on the American air carrier, TWA, and all its affiliates for a period of 6 months.

The order, signed by General Manager Sa'ud 'Abd al-Aziz az-Zamil, gave no reason for lifting the order, which was passed last month, but added that the order will be reviewed after the 6-month period.

It is apparently a grace period during which TWA is expected to take measures to conform itself with the requirements of the Arab boycott, if it and its affiliates wish to deal with the Arab countries.

The order yesterday also added several companies and ships of different nationalities to the blacklist.

'NUCLEAR DIMENSION' TO U.S.-EGYPT TIES ALLEGED

LD131719 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Mar 81 p 14

["Egypt dispatch: A Serious Political Report From Cairo: Has the Egyptian-American Military Alliance Assumed a Nuclear Dimension?"]

[Excerpts] This report deals with a central issue which the national grouping is raising about Egypt's political, economic and military independence being undermined as a result of the Egyptian-Israeli-American alliance and the vital tasks which must be carried out vis-a-vis [Egypt's] subservience to foreign domination, particularly the task of setting up a front that will encompass all the forces in our country which are keen to safeguard national independence and restoring Egypt's dignity, position and identity as a state with a pioneering history and an ancient heritage of struggle in the heart of its Arab nation, within the framework of its Islamic and African environment and among the non-aligned states.

The current situation in Egypt cannot but be described as not only signifying a violation of Egyptian sovereignty or loss of independence but also as a situation characterized by subservience. The new thing is that Egypt has become a servant of American imperialism's world strategy vis-a-vis the Arab, African and Islamic states.

The stronger cooperation the Egyptian authorities have achieved with American imperialism in the name of "peace" in the Middle East has not overcome the historical contradiction between Zionism and Arab nationalism but has shifted Egypt from one of the two camps to the other. In view of Egypt's importance and influence in the Arab nation, the dimensions of the confrontation have therefore become more complicated, not vice versa, and Egyptian nationalism, which is tenaciously linked with the Arab nationalist movement, has been subjected to a serious crisis.

The authorities openly declare their readiness to grant military facilities in their country to the American forces. They have indeed granted such facilities to America. According to Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, these facilities are in Egyptian air, naval and ground bases--at Cairo West Airport and Qina airport. A base is also being built for this purpose at Ras Banas overlooking the Red Sea.

The president says that what he is giving America are facilities, not bases, and that he is prepared to store American weapons in Egypt but not to have American forces stay permanently in Egypt.

In any case, even if we take at face value the authorities' statements that what they are granting America are only "facilities," this means, according to the authorities' definition of "facilities," giving America the right to stockpile strategic weapons in Egypt, to train its forces in combat on terrain similar to that of the Arab countries and to use Egypt as a springbroad for effective combat. Egyptian planes have participated with American planes in joint exercises extending to the borders of Iran.

The Officials Do Not Know What Is Stockpiled in Egypt

The weapons which America stockpiles in Egypt could include special nuclear weapons. Egyptian officials are not informed of everything that is stockpiled. This means turning Egypt into a nuclear base and making it a target in a nuclear war for reasons that are in no way related to Egypt's interests but to America's higher strategy.

There are indications that the American Government is now negotiating with the Egyptian Government on the question of allowing U.S. warships equipped with nuclear weapons to pass through the Suez Canal. This confirms that the Egyptian-American military cooperation has indeed assumed a nuclear dimension.

The fact is that the multifaceted American military presence in Egypt and the repeated staging of joint military maneuvers has given this presence a character of permanence. The abortive American military operation to rescue the hostages in Iran started from Egypt.

This operation has proved that the American military presence in Egypt has nothing to do with safeguarding Egypt's security or its sublime interests but is for the purpose of intervening and committing aggression in neighboring countries, serving American strategic aims and securing America's interests in the area.

UAE

SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN TRADE FAIR REFUSED

GF200937 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 p 1

[From a special correspondent]

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, March 19--A Soviet attempt at a back-door entry into the UAE apparently misfired when the Ash-Shariqah spring fair organisers announced today that there will be no Soviet participation in the proposed fair next month.

The announcement cited only "insufficient time" to process the necessary requirements for Soviet participation in the fourth annual international spring fair at the Expo center in Ash-Shariqah.

It was the first time that the Soviets had indicated interest in having their pavilion in any trade fair in the UAE. The two countries do not have diplomatic relations, but there is small Soviet trade going on in the federation, mainly centered on the import and sale of Soviet-made cars.

The Soviet request for participation in the fair, to be held from 9 to 17 April, was made last month by a senior Soviet trade official in Moscow. The request was referred to the UAE Foreign Ministry, which--after appropriate consultations--turned down the request today.

Though none of the East bloc countries have any diplomatic ties with the UAE, some other socialist countries like Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary and Poland, have participated in the past three spring fairs, the organizers pointed out today.

It only added it hoped the Soviet request for participation in the fifth annual fair later this year "will be communicated well in advance so that it could be duly processed by the UAE Government." That event is set for 26 November to 6 December 1981.

The Soviets had said that, in their trade and cultural participation, the world famous Bolshoi ballet would have performed before the UAE audiences.

EDITORIAL DENOUNCES REAGAN'S PALESTINE POLICY

LD171607 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Mar 81 pp 1, 6

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] We and others are aware that international policy is based on interests before principles and indeed at the expense of principles which have a very marginal place in the balance of relations among states. This is true with regard to international relations in general and also the relations between the big and small states, particularly the relations between the superpowers and other states. In their relations with other states, the superpowers conduct themselves on the basis that "might is above right," and that might is right and sets its own limits. Thus, the superpowers have the right to infringe upon and interfere in the affairs of others. They do not hesitate to talk, from a position of strength, about values and principles and to use them as a cover for their interests and real objectives.

Within this context the big powers, whether in the East or the West, do not shy away from applying two contadictory criteria to two identical situations, just as U.S. President Ronald Reagan has done. He was right when he disapproved of the description of Afghan revolutionaries as rebels. He was clear when he said: "The Afghan resistance does not consist of rebels but of strugglers who are fighting for the freedom of their country and who do not want it to become a Soviet satellite."

Is the American President's description of the Afghan mujahidin and fighters a sincere one and in accordance with the principles which the United States adheres to and defends or is it a description hiding some ulterior motives? The man was true to himself for he dotted the i's when he pointed out that the Afghan struggle is directed against the Soviets.

In any case this is the American President's business and concerns his relations with the Soviets. We, however, have a different attitude on this matter--an attitude which gives us and all the forces which support any people struggling for their country's freedom the right to ask President Reagan: What about Palestine, the Palestinians and the PLO? What is the difference between the Palestinians and the Afghans? Why does the American President regard the PLO as a terrorist and aggressive organization and the Afghans--and this is true--as strugglers? Is it because the latter are resisting the Soviets whereas the Palestinians are struggling against Israel which is America's protege and the offspring of an unholy alliance between Zionism and the major American monopolies?

There are many questions but things are clear. The simplest principle in politics is that a politician should not err publicly by applying double standards to two identical situations, in one case regarding the people's struggle as a holy struggle and, in another case, regarding it as terrorism, according to his whims. This is not politic. There is an old saying which goes like this: One can deceive some people some of the time, all people some of the time, or some people all the time but one cannot deceive all the people all the time, even if some of these people are in Afghanistan and some in Palestine--yes, in Palestine, not in Israel.

EDITORIAL ON U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN SUDAN

JN180755 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 18 Mar (ENA)--In its editorial today the newspaper AL-KHALIJ denounces the invitation extended by one of the Arab countries to the United States to build military bases on its territory. The newspaper expresses fear and anxiety for that country on the one hand and fear and anxiety for its neighbors and the other Arab countries on the other.

The paper says that it is the privilege of any Arab country to befriend a superpower and that "no one will undermine the sovereignty of this state or that in establishing any bilateral relations which it desires." But the paper adds that such friendship should not be at the expense of Arab security, safety and stability.

AL-KHALIJ asserts that in the event of that Arab country being subjected to the Soviet attack which it fears, the whole Arab nation will rise up to help it defend its national soil and sovereignty.

The newspaper is reminded of Washington's objectives in deploying its forces around the Arab nation, especially the Gulf, and says: "Washington's statements on armed intervention in the Gulf area have become an almost daily occurrence and appear in the statements of U.S. politicians as well as in the plans of its military commanders. Nothing makes Washington happier than an open invitation from Sudan to come and set up military bases, because Sudan is only two steps away from the Gulf area and is a very good position for the movement of the Rapid Deployment Force as well as the long-term deployment forces."

The paper makes a connection between the invitation issued by one of the Arab countries and the danger of an explosion of the situation in the Arab Maghreb. The paper says that there is no difference between this invitation and the events threatening to cause a fight between brothers, because Washington's gains would be identical in both cases.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. MILITARY BASES IN AREA

JN131528 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Mar (ENA)--Two newspapers published here today comment on the statements made by the U.S. secretaries of state and defense and the chief of staff on U.S. intervention in the Gulf area.

The newspaper AL-BAYAN says: U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's statement that the United States does not seek to establish military bases in the Gulf area because of the refusal of these states to establish such bases "is a U.S. retreat following the British retreat voiced by the British defense secretary last Monday, who said that his country has no intention to return militarily to the east Suez region."

The paper says that Weinberger's retreat was a forced one due to the fact that all officials in the region, led by those concerned in the UAE, clearly declared by means of official channels and international rostrums their absolute rejection of any foreign military presence and called on the superpowers and large countries to remove their navies from this area and keep it away from international conflicts.

The paper affirms that had it not been for this consensus of absolute rejection, the British retreat followed by the U.S. retreat would not have occurred.

The newspaper calls on the United States in particular and European countries in general to change their traditional policies on arms sales if they truly desire to preserve Gulf security and stability so that the Gulf states will have their own defense capabilities, which will enable them to confront any external threats.

In its editorial the newspaper AL-KHALIJ says that the contradictions in U.S. statements on the Rapid Deployment Forces and permanent U.S. bases in the Gulf region "refer to an essentially Arab issue, although it is designed that the Gulf should be the arena of this issue, thus requiring a transformation of Camp David into a new form to be implemented in the Gulf by means of military and economic hegemony over the peoples of the area."

The newspaper calls on the Gulf countries and peoples of the region to expose this new imperialist onslaught and to define its instruments with the required clarity and frankness.

The newspaper affirms that the required success will not be achieved unless all the Arab people in the area participate in foiling this design. The paper says: "The correct pan-Arab start by any Arab Gulf state will be to involve its citizens in any honorable role in that respect." The paper adds: "Gulf coordination will remain desirable as long as it serves the purposes of the popular movement against imperialist hegemony over the area and its sovereignty. Gulf initiatives toward the Arabs remain useful if they aim at building an Arab edifice protecting the Gulf from the machinations of the enemies of the Arab nation."

PDRY

PDRY, SOVIET OFFICIALS DISCUSS ECONOMIC RELATIONS

LD192042 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, this morning received Comrade Mordinov, deputy chairman of the USSR state committee for foreign economic relations and deputy chairman of the Soviet-Yemeni joint economic committee, who is paying an official visit to Democratic Yemen at the head of a (?Soviet) economic delegation.

During the meeting attended by Brother Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim, minister of planning, and Comrade Felix Fedotov, the Soviet ambassador to Aden, a discussion took place in a cordial atmosphere on cooperation between the two friendly countries and the scope of its development in the economic and technical fields. A number of issues connected with the implementation of protocols and agreements on economic and technical cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union were reviewed.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his appreciation at the internationalist support and cooperation offered by the Soviet people and their Communist Party to Democratic Yemen. He also praised the development of the relations of friendship and militant solidarity existing between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union. He emphasized that these relations will develop and be further reinforced. Comrade Mordvinov (?appreciated) the successes achieved by Yemeni workers and the reinforcement of the status of Democratic Yemen at the international level. He stressed that the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries will expand and develop to serve the two friendly peoples and countries.

Cooperation Protocols Signed

LD200006 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Protocols on economic and technical cooperation were signed this morning resulting from the meeting of the second session of the joint Soviet-Yemeni economic committee.

The first protocol provides for economic and technical cooperation between our country and the friendly Soviet Union for carrying out studies on some projects and implementing a cement factory project, a stone-cutting factory and (?Ath-Thawrah) factory; while the second protocol provides for the specification of the work of the joint committee, evaluation of the work accomplished in projects that are being implemented within the framework of cooperation between the two friendly countries and discussion of difficulties, solutions and proposals for expediting the implementation of projects.

Brother Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim, minister of planning, signed the protocols on behalf of the Yemeni side, while Comrade Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the state committee for foreign economic relations in the USSR Council of Ministers, signed on behalf of the Soviet side.

The brother planning minister, in a reciprocal speech after the signing, appreciated the support being offered by the Soviet Union to our country and expressed his confidence that the rate of development in the field of cooperation will increase in the same enthusiastic spirit as in the past decade. Comrade Mordvinov pointed out the importance of the convening of the second session of the joint Soviet-Yemeni economic committee. He said its importance lies in the implementation of steps which will contribute to developing the Yemeni economy.

The signing ceremony was attended by Comrade Felix Fedotov, the Soviet ambassador to Aden, and members of the joint Soviet-Yemeni economic committee.

CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED ON ARAB, REGIONAL ISSUES

LD181547 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15 Mar 81 p 5

[Ahmed Fattani interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium: "The U.S. Presence Is a Source of Anxiety and Danger for the Gulf Region"--date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, observers closely followed your tour of three Arab resistance front capitals--Algiers, Tripoli and Damascus--which followed your visit to Ethiopia. The tension in the Gulf region caused by the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and the strengthening of U.S. bases are in themselves causes for concern with regard to maintaining security in this trouble spot. What is your analysis of the present situation?

[Answer] First, before answering your question, I must explain that my visit to Algiers falls within the framework of consultations with the Algerian leaders. Our two countries have many similar aspects. They are both to be found in a single front opposing imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

I think that this visit heralds a new stage in cooperation, understanding and solidarity between our two states. This alliance between our two states is made much more necessary by the difficult situation the Arab nation is now facing. For instance, we are witnessing a vast deployment of U.S. strength in Oman, Somalia and Egypt and the strengthening of U.S. bases in our region. The U.S. presence has become a source of anxiety and danger threatening the security of all peoples in the region. This explains why we have drawn attention on many occasions to the dangers posed by this U.S. presence. We have also drawn the attention of the states in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf to Sultan Qabus' role and to his complicity in granting facilities for U.S. bases. We did not fail to point out that this danger not only threatens the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] but all the countries in the region. Our struggle is comparable to that of the Algerian people, and consequently our people are determined to defend their revolution and their achievements.

The PDRY is an impregnable bastion of liberation and progress in the Arabian Peninsula and will continue to carry the torch of freedom there.

Despite attempts made by reactionary forces our determination will only step up our struggle against the U.S. presence, consolidate our resistance, sparing no sacrifice, and continue our march along the path that has been laid down thanks to the unity of all our social forces.

This makes it necessary for us to increase our solidarity with the Arab resistance front countries.

The coordination which exists between Washington and its agents makes it necessary to increase unity of action among the forces of the Steadfastness [and Confrontation] Front countries and the Arab and African liberation movements, because the threat is not only to the Palestinian question or the Arab cause or to the PDRY and Algeria but to the entire Arab liberation movement.

That is why we are aware of the importance of solidarity among all revolutionaries to face the new U.S. policy and to thwart its attempt to portray the PLO as a terrorist organization. We assert the opposite. The Arab liberation movement will pursue its struggle until it attains all its objectives and will fight the U.S. presence and U.S. agents relentlessly.

Events have shown that the will of peoples is stronger than the plans of imperialism, Israel and their allies.

[Question] After failing in his attempt to create a Palestinian "third force," As-Sadat has just revived the idea of forming a Palestinian provisional government in the wake of his trip to Luxembourg and Paris in Western Europe. Since the offer made by the instigator of the Camp David agreements was made from a Western capital, what do you think is the intention behind Cairo's new proposal?

[Answer] I think that the European initiative is another attempt to mobilize the Camp David partners, now that the agreements have reached stalemate--the first consequence of their rejection by the Palestinian people and the Arabs.

All the attempts As-Sadat is now making are consistent with his desperate initiatives. This is not the first time As-Sadat has called for the formation of a Palestinian provisional government. We remember that he made the same request in 1971. Of course it is up to the PLO to reject this plan. This idea is inevitably doomed to the same fate as befell the 1971 proposal.

The PDRY's position is a principled position based on a rejection of all As-Sadat's proposals, and we support the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. The Arab countries will certainly adopt the same position.

[Question] Observers have various interpretations of your visits to Riyadh, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi last year. Can you tell us, Mr President, the reasons for this rapprochement with the fraternal Gulf countries?

[Answer] Our relations with Kuwait were established as soon as the PDRY gained independence in 1967. These relations are cordial because Kuwait gives aid to the PDRY without interfering in our internal affairs. This attitude has characterized our relations for years. For our part we have asserted several times the importance of establishing such relations with the states in the region, in other words stable and exemplary relations free of interference in internal affairs.

Furthermore, my visits to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait last year were aimed essentially at establishing normal and stable relations between our countries.

We stressed that the aim of our visit, especially our visit to Saudi Arabia, was to establish such stable relations in order to ensure security and stability and to reduce tension in the region, which has become a very sensitive area.

We also stressed the importance of stability for the PDRY because it influences the whole region's stability. Similarly, constant tension has the same effects on all countries in the region.

We also asked our brothers in the Gulf countries to help us establish security and stability in the region.

During our visits we did not ask our hosts to give us material support but to contribute to a rapprochement and understanding between the two Yemens, because stability on the Yemeni scene means stability for all states in the region. That is why we asked the Arabian Peninsula states to establish stable and exemplary relations in order to protect us from constant tension. I repeat that there was never any question of asking for any material aid during these visits, because the most desirable thing is to protect the region from new difficulties. That was the essential aim of my visit.

[Question] What progress has been made in the process of reunifying the two Yemens?

[Answer] The most important result we have achieved so far is the continuity of dialogue but also the implementation of joint projects in the land, sea and tourist transport spheres. There are other joint projects aside from those already implemented.

President 'Ali Salih has stressed the importance of continuing dialogue and contacts. We share that concern. We consider that the things which have been achieved are a step toward achieving unity and the start of economic complementarity between our two states.

[Question] What are the economic and social prospects for the PDRY's development?

[Answer] The second 5-year plan, which begins this year, contains many projects. Its objective is to improve the Yemeni people's future by developing our economy. Algeria is contributing to several projects related to electricity, satellite telecommunications, housing, agriculture and so forth.

We greatly appreciate this fraternal contribution being made by the Algerian Government. We also appreciate the importance which President Chadli attaches to developing and strengthening bilateral relations.

AUSTRALIA'S ANTHONY HOLDS TALKS, PRESS CONFERENCE

Ghali Meeting

NC192252 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that his talks with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister John Douglas Anthony were positive. He added that he explained Egypt's attitude toward the Palestine question and African issues, especially Libya's intervention in Chad. A review was made of the plan to establish a multinational UN peacekeeping force in Sinai and the problems obstructing the establishment of such a force. Dr Ghali said that the Australian side showed interest in this plan.

Meanwhile, the Australian deputy prime minister has said that Egypt's efforts had broken the vicious circle around which the Palestinian issue had been revolving for 30 years, stressing that these efforts would ultimately lead to a solution. He also said that Australia supported the establishment of a national homeland for the Palestinians and that the Palestinians must clarify their stand. He added that the Australian and Egyptian viewpoints were identical regarding the Soviet intervention in Africa and the Middle East, stressing that this matter was of interest to the whole world.

Press Conference

NC192224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)--Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister John Douglas Anthony has described President Anwar as-Sadat as one of the most prominent figures of the seventies. The Australian official also lauded the pioneering role President as-Sadat is playing for the prosperity of the Egypt's citizens and for strengthening the economy.

At a press conference held in Cairo today, the Australian deputy prime minister affirmed that trade relations between Egypt and Australia would witness noticeable growth in the near future. Paying tribute to the Egyptian economy, he explained that Egypt's increasing revenues from oil, tourism and various investments would contribute to its growth and stability.

The Australian deputy prime minister said that his country would contribute its technical knowhow in prospecting for uranium in Egypt, adding that he would personally try to convince Australian companies to carry out this task. He noted that talks are now underway on Australia supplying Egypt with uranium until Egypt's first nuclear power plant becomes operational, by 1989. He added that there must be bilateral agreements containing special guarantees regarding the supply of uranium to Egypt.

He said that Australia's imports of Egyptian textiles, clothing and carpets were expected to increase. Noting that Egyptian exports to Australia have reached $79 million, he said Egypt's imports of Australian products, such as wool, wheat and meat, have reached $312 million.

The Australian deputy prime minister noted that Egypt annually imports 1 million tons of Australian wheat. He said that Egypt has asked for an additional 250,000 tons, but that this request is still under consideration in view of Australia's commitments to other states.

Deputy Prime Minister Anthony said that he would leave for Saudi Arabia on Monday at the conclusion of his visit to Egypt.

Sinai Force Agreement

NC192134 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)--Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister John Douglas Anthony has announced that his country has agreed in principle to participate in the multinational peacekeeping force to be set up in Sinai in accordance with the Camp David agreements. The Australian official declared this at a press conference he held in Cairo today.

NORWEGIAN KING ACCEPTS 'ALI INVITATION TO EGYPT

NC191413 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Oslo, 19 Mar (MENA)--King Olav V, the king of Norway, has accepted President Anwar as-Sadat's invitation to visit Egypt; the date of the visit will be decided later. During his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who is currently visiting Norway, King Olav V expressed his admiration of President Anwar as-Sadat's policy and requested the deputy prime minister to convey his majesty's greetings to President as-Sadat.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who conveyed President as-Sadat's invitation to his majesty, also addressed a similar invitation to the crown prince of Norway to visit Egypt.

Today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali held official talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Frydenlund. The talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East, in particular, and the international situation, in general. During the talks the Norwegian side expressed its readiness to exert efforts to assist in advancing the peace efforts in the Middle East.

SUDANESE, EGYPTIAN GROUPS WELCOME NORMALIZATION

NC201048 Cairo MENA in English 1035 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Port Said, 20 Mar (MENA)--Members of the Sudanese parliamentary delegation currently visiting here and leaderships of the National Democratic Party welcomed the decision taken recently by the Sudanese leadership to normalise relations with Egypt. They also welcomed the decision taken by the Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union to push forward relations between the two countries on the way to political and economic integration.

A joint communique issued today by the political congress held at the headquarters of the NDP here expressed absolute support to President Anwar as-Sadat and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. The communique affirmed that fraternal relations between the peoples of Egypt and the Sudan will enable them to surmount all obstacles. The two sides condemned the Libyan aggression against Chad and called for a Libyan withdrawal.

PAPER SAYS PALESTINIAN STATE NO THREAT TO ISRAEL

LD191445 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Mar 81 p 7

[Salah Muntasir article: "Not in Defense of the Palestinians and Their State but of Reason and Logic"]

[Excerpts] Anyone hearing Menahem Begin talk about the great dangers threatening the safety and security of Israel and the communist infiltration that will afflict the whole area if a Palestinian state is allowed to emerge is bound to think that this Palestinian state about which he is talking is the size of China, for example, or that every individual in it will be armed with a tank, plane and missile and that no citizen will be allowed to live there unless he stands before President Brezhnev and swears by God to be loyal to Lenin and Marx and to all the advocates of communism.

This is no exaggeration. It is exactly what Prime Minister Menahem Begin and other Israeli leaders want to tell us and to tell the world. It is as if we have no brains with which to think and that there are no rules of logic to show that all that is being said in this regard is contrary to the most fundamental principles of such rules.

Nevertheless, this record is being played and replayed ad nauseam. The purpose, of course, is to "brainwash" the world so that it will side with Israel and will join it in fighting the Palestinians who have for years and years been living in tents and suffering the miseries of cold and dispersal. The day these tents are folded up and their inhabitants go back to their land, from which they were expelled, will be a calamity for the Israeli because these monsters will devour Israel and will spread communism throughout the great Arab homeland.

Is this compatible with the most fundamental rules of logic?

The area of the Palestinian state which everybody is talking about is no greater than a finger compared with a whole hand. The Palestinian state where the Palestinians have the right to hoist their flag--everyone says--consists of the West Bank and Gaza, which amounts to one-fifth of the area of Palestine.

Moreover, if this Palestinian state is established it will not be allowed to see the light of day, its flag will not be raised, and the world will not sign its birth certificate before the following is done:

Not before its leaders declare to the world their recognition of Israel in return for Israel's recognition of this state;

Not before this leadership signs a peace treaty with Israel and exchanges the combat dress for a civilian dress;

Not before the designation of demilitarized areas bordering Israel in this small state;

Not before locations are designated for the stationing of peace-keeping forces on the borders of this state if necessary;

And not before this new state signs a treaty restricting the arms entering it.

Despite all this we and the world are required to believe that a state, with all such shackles, can threaten a state like Israel, which in 3 days was able to occupy the whole of Sinai, one-third of Syria, and half of Jordan.

Moreover, what is the story behind their communist danger of which they often talk when referring to this state?

Every time Begin talks about this Palestinian state--the latest being 3 days ago before the conference of the Jewish movement in Tel Aviv--he refers to the waves of communism that will bear down on the area and expose Israel to danger. Once before he said that allowing the establishment of a Palestinian state means allowing a communist presence on Israeli borders--something which Israel will never accept.

Is such talk reasonable?

Even if we were to abolish all reason and logic and all the elementary principles of politics and if we were to imagine that such a small state called Palestine would be a communist state, will such a communist presence on Israel's borders be the first of its kind?

Is there no communist presence on Israel's borders, for example, in Syria and along borders that are much longer than those of the proposed Palestinian state? Has not this communist presence in Syria reached the point where a friendship treaty has been concluded between Damascus and Moscow? Syria is certainly much bigger and stronger than the Palestinian state concerned.

Nevertheless, nothing is being said about the real and existing communist danger on the Syrian borders with Israel. There is only talk about the alleged communist danger if a Palestinian state is allowed to be established. Whoever hears this is bound to think that the Palestinian leadership is up to its ears in communist ideology and that the Soviet Union can hardly wait for a Palestinian state to be established so as to dig its claws into Israel and the whole area, or that the Soviet Union's chief aim is to destroy Israel.

The truth is quite the opposite, for the Soviet Union has found its way into the area only because of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its arms supplies to the Arabs; it has been able to maintain and spread its existence in the area because of the continued conflict and of its success in dividing the Arabs and exploiting the Arab leaderships, which traded on the Palestinian cause. The shortest way to ousting the Soviet Union from the area is to achieve stability--which cannot be achieved without the settlement of the crux of the conflict and unless a Palestinian state comes into being.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union is the biggest provider of manpower that Israel needs. Last year a record number of Russian Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel. If Moscow was indeed an evil for Israel it would not have allowed the flow of all those emigrants.

AS-SADAT FORMS PRESIDENTIAL ADVISERS DEPARTMENTS

NC192144 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today issued two republican decrees establishing departments attached to the body of presidential advisers and choosing the members of these departments.

Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, presidential assistant and head of the presidential advisers body, stated that President as-Sadat decided after singing the two decrees to hold an expanded 3-day conference with the Council of Advisers during the second half of April. Mar'i said that on the first day President as-Sadat will deliver an important, detailed speech in which he will explain all the economic conditions and the domestic and foreign political situation. As-Sadat will also explain his visualization of the role that the advisers body must play, the nature of its work and its tasks. In addition, he will shed light on the economic development projects within the framework of the economic open-door policy and on the food security and energy projects.

AS-SADAT REMEMBERS KING FAYSAL IN MAY ARTICLE

NC160950 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has described the late King Faysal of Saudi Arabia as an example of calm, tranquility and noble character. King Faysal, the president says, spoke little, but when he did his words were worth gold or diamonds. In his serialized article under the title "I Have Known Them," in the weekly newspaper MAY, the president says that God had bestowed on King Faysal the qualities of good judgment, noble feelings and foresight. Life taught him much. From politics he learned truthfulness, which is a rare thing. Life also taught him to be straightforward, which is even more rare. The following is the text of the article published in today's edition of the newspaper:

Early in 1973 I took Al-Qadhdhafi with me, at his request, to Saudi Arabia for the small pilgrimage en route to attend the Islamic conference held in Lahore in Pakistan. We went to Riyadh and we met with King Faysal. As usual I found King Faysal a true friend and a supreme example of Arab wisdom at its best. Our meeting with King Faysal lasted about 45 minutes.

King faysal had a very good memory. He had an extraordinary ability to recall dates and places and to describe people. He had the bedouin insight. Talking about something that happened 30 or 40 years earlier, he would recall that such and such a person was sitting fourth from the left and was wearing such and such clothes. He would say: 'Alubah Pasha voiced such and such an opinion and Mahmud Fahmi an-Nuqrashi voiced another, and my answer to them was such and such, to the letter.

King Faysal began his political life at the age of 13. His father plunged him into the life of international politics at an early age. He learned truthfulness in politics, which is a rare thing, and he learned to be straightforward, which is even more rare.

During the 45 minutes with King Faysal, Al-Qadhdhafi heard a review of the Palestine question as he never heard it before in his life. King Faysal was a moving encyclopedia with all the minute details. What he said was based on his own personal experience, because he was a part of the events he related. In other words, he recorded the history which he himself participated in making.

One of the historic facts which King Faysal revealed for the first time was that the British had once made an offer to the Palestinians that if they would agree to the immigration of 50,000 Jews the British would hand Palestine over to Palestinian administration. The Palestinians, however, said "no," and they were supported by the Arabs, who know nothing other than this word in politics. In so doing they complicate the problem instead of solving it, or, perhaps, they have no intention of solving it.

Had the Palestinians accepted that offer they would have spared the Arab nation much trouble, worry, blood, disasters, and men. Only 50,000 amidst these millions was not something to be frightened of. It would have been possible to absorb them without any threat to the Arab nation.

Such was King Faysal, may God bless his soul. He was a historian and a man who participated in the making of Arab history. He also was objective and could see into the future. Unfortunately, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi did not understand the lesson.

My relationship with King Faysal, God bless his soul, was one of love and respect. My long experience with King Faysal confirmed one clear fact: He honored his word. A word from him was in fact a word of law above question. He was an ideal example of great men and sound relations. Even during the Yemen war, when there were basic differences between our two countries, my contact with King Faysal were never severed. My relationship with him was one of strong fraternity and friendship until he died in March 1975.

King Faysal adopted several stands which indicated his nobility and chivalry and which made him respected and beloved. At the Khartoum conference, which was held in the summer of 1967, Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir met with King Faysal, who at that time was being accused of being the peak of reaction. Faysal did not rejoice at Egypt's misfortune or at Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's defeat. However, there were stands which surprised Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. This was because Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya had decided to give financial aid to Egypt equal to its revenue from the Suez Canal.

Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir thought that the aid would not exceed 5 or 10 million Egyptian pounds at the most. This was the opinion of the then amir of Kuwait, Shaykh 'Abdallah as-Salim, who tried to convince Faysal that this would be enough. However, everybody at the meeting, especially defeated 'Abd an-Nasir, as surprised when Faysal announced that Saudi Arabia would pay 50 million pounds and asked Kuwait to pay 55 million pounds.

My friendship with King Faysal began when I visited Riyadh to attend the first Islamic conference in 1955. He was then a crown prince and Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Pakistan were the founding members of the conference. Despite the war in Yemen we remained friends because friendship had the same meaning to both of us.

In 1969 I went to Morocco on behalf of 'Abd an-Nasir to attend the Islamic conference that was held to discuss the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque [in Jerusalem]. During the conference everybody came to understand that I was clear, frank and an upholder of justice, contrary to the apprehensions of King Hassan of Morocco, who had had doubts about Egypt's stands.

King Faysal was a reticent man, but when he spoke his few words were as precious as gold or diamonds. Those who knew King Faysal very well, such as myself, had come to realize that life had taught this man many things; the experience of politics and his mingling with world personalities had taught him to be patient, gentle and tolerant.

Perhaps he was guided to this course when he sat opposite 'Abd an-Nasir in Sudan. He sat opposite a giant but a deeply wounded Arab leader who was one of his fiercest enemies. However, the situation demanded that he should extend his hand to assist the wounded leader. These are the qualities of a noble Arab man, for King Faysal was from the type of men whom you could not help but love and respect.

Just as King Faysal stood with Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir in his ordeal, he also stood with me during my problems with the Soviet Union. In 1971 my problems with the Soviet Union became bigger and more complex, for in that year I liquidated the centers of power. Then came our stand toward the revolution which broke out in Sudan. Each of these two incidents was a full-fledged battle with the Soviet leaders, who felt that the regime in Egypt was no longer their satellite. All their behavior showed concealed hostility. The outcome was that I became completely despairing of the Soviet Union and its leaders. I contacted King Faysal and told him: You have Lightning fighter-bombers. With a brotherly spirit he answered: Yes, I have.

My problem with the Soviet Union was that all our planes had a short range as opposed to the Western planes, including these British planes, which had a long range. The Soviet Union had always wanted us to have our feet hung in the air--that is, not to have weapons that would decide the battle in our favor.

When I contacted King Faysal and told him that I wanted these planes, he said: Why not. I will send you 20 planes.

These British planes were old and obsolete but they were still being used in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Britain then stopped manufacturing these planes, because they were very complex and extremely costly, and began using the U.S. Phantom planes.

In 1971 I visited the Soviet Union twice, the first time in March and the second time in October, after relations between me and the Soviet Union had become very tense as a result of two things: The first was my action in liquidating the centers of power in May and the second my support for Numayri against the short-lived communist revolution which broke out in Sudan in July of 1971. The Soviet Union asked me to recognize the new government headed by Hashim al-'Ata. I refused and I even told the Soviet Union that I would not tolerate the presence of a Marxist regime next to my borders.

CPSU Secretary Ponomarev came to Cairo and asked me, after the failure of the revolution, to personally intercede to stop the execution of a man they had in the Sudanese Workers Party. His name was Shafi' and he was considered one of the top men linked to them. With Ponomarev next to me I telephone Numayri. His answer was: This would have been possible if you had contacted me a day earlier, but the court has already sentenced him to death and he has already been executed."

The Soviets bore a grudge against me because of my attitude toward the July revolution in Sudan and our relations became very tense. They resorted to their well-known method of withholding arms supplies. They even stopped supplying me with spare parts for the arms we already had. This was in addition, of course, to the fact that they refused to give us long-range planes.

After some discussion and suffering, the Soviets agreed that I should go to the Soviet Union on 11 October. I had earlier asked King Faysal for some planes of the Lightening type. This was a different type of plane and its maintenance was so complicated that even the British themselves complained about it. Its only good quality was that it was a long-range plane. As was customary with King Faysal, we did not put our agreement down in writing because King Faysal's word was sufficient.

On 10 October, that is, 1 day before my departure, I received, to my surprise, a cable from King Faysal telling me that Saudi Arabia decided to give us the 20 Lightening planes immediately. I laughed when I received the cable. My aides who were with me did not grasp the significance of that cable. They knew that we had agreed earlier about the 20 planes, so why should he send the cable then? I told them that King Faysal was a very skillful and clever politician, in addition to his genuineness and values as a person. By sending me the cable he meant to support me in my confrontation with the Soviets and wanted me to announce officially that I was getting 20 planes from Saudi Arabia, and that is what happened.

When I told the Soviets they were furious. The news fell on Soviet leaders Podgornyy, Brezhnev and Kosygin like a thunderbolt, especially Brezhnev. He looked as if he had been bitten by a snake. They said: How could you accept planes from Saudi Arabia in particular, knowing what the Soviets thought of Saudi Arabia?

I told Brezhnev: My voice is hoarse from repeated requests to you to send me long-range planes. I have asked you for these planes, and before me 'Abd an-Nasir did, to no avail. We told you that we did not want these planes for an invasion. We wanted the planes as a deterrent to Israel when it struck in depth. So, do we say no to Saudi Arabia if it offers us these planes?

Faysal honored his word, and more. He bought 36 Mirage planes for Egypt. These planes were of the latest type and were, of course, better and stronger than the old ones. This man was indeed the wisdom of history. He was an example of calm, tranquillity and noble character. God gave him wisdom, noble feelings and foresight.

Shortly before the October war, in August 1973 to be specific, the Supreme Council of the Egyptian-Syrian Joint Forces held its first meeting in Alexandria to prepare, coordinate and equip for the battle scheduled for October after Hafiz al-Asad's secret visit to me in Burj al-'Arab.

Field Marshal Ahmad Isma'il, may God bless his soul, discovered, however, that the Syrians were backtracking, on the pretext that they still had not absorbed the new weapons, despite the fact that they had these weapons for more than 1 year and had trained on them. We had received these same weapons shortly before the battle and our armed forces were able to fully and quickly absorb them. The most important of these weapons was the BMP, the so-called mobile fortress or the armored combat vehicle. It had all the qualities of a tank but was capable of carrying more men than a tank. It also was equipped with antitank missiles. The Soviet Union had generously supplied Syria with arms in 1972, after I expelled the Soviet experts; so much so that Al-Asad told me that he had no more room for this deluge of arms and that he had to use schools during the summer holidays as stores for these weapons.

If we go back to the October war we will recall that 15 days before the outbreak of the war the Israelis raided some of these very schools which were used for storing arms.

Any postponement of the war beyond the date set for it in October would have been a dangerous thing because this would have meant that the war would have been postponed indefinitely. From November until spring the Golan Heights are not suitable for military operations. When spring comes they [the Syrians] may find other excuses. Therefore, when I was informed of the Syrian leaders' stand, I told Ahmad Isma'il that I would go to Syria to meet Hafiz al-Asad. I also decided to visit Saudi Arabia and Qatar for 2 days for two reasons: First, because I wanted to inform King Faysal and Shaykh Khalifah that war was imminent. Second, I wanted to give Ahmad Isma'il the chance to finish the conference then being held in Alexandria and also to send the Syrian commanders to Syria because I wanted the Syrian defense minister to be in Damascus during my visit there.

A long dialogue took place between me and King Faysal during my visit to him in August 1973. I told him: We will fight Israel, God willing, and I have agreed with president Hafiz al-Asad on this.

King Faysal raised his head toward the sky and implored God to give us victory. He then said: Your Excellency, Hafiz al-Asad is both a Ba'thist and an 'Alawite. How can you join him in a war and how can you trust him? For 15 minutes I then assured King Faysal that I trusted Hafiz al-Asad. He hesitantly remained silent and then asked me: What is the role required of me?

I said: I only ask that you adopt a stand commensurate with a battle that will define the future of the Arab nation for generations to come.

He said: I have one request. If you launch a war, do not stop it after a few hours or a few days. Make it a long battle, for then we will be able to formulate a unified Arab stand.

I shall never forget Faysal's words because they indicated great political wisdom. The formulation of an Arab stand meant that the entire Arab nation would enter the battle. However, the entire Arab nation would not enter the battle unless we proved that we could wage a protracted war against Israel, especially after the Arabs had lost their self-confidence. What was needed was a protracted battle and a passage of some time.

Faysal was right because if the battles did not last for some time, the oil weapon would not have been used in the battle. We all remember that oil did not enter into it until 10 days after the battle had started. Had we implemented the 'Alawite Ba'th demand for a cease-fire only 48 hours after the war had started no victory would have been achieved and oil would not have entered into it.

There is another very important thing. During that meeting of more than 1 hour, King Faysal did not ask me about the zero hour. I am here answering those who justify their stand toward the Camp David agreements, which they did not read. They justify their stand by saying that I did not inform them.

Although the dialogue lasted for a long time, Faysal did not ask me about the zero hour. He instinctively knew that the zero hour concerned me and Al-Asad only, and that I could not disclose it, not because I had no confidence in him but because of military considerations.

King Faysal was of the excellent and unique breed of Arab leaders who were molded by experience and time and, above anything else, was genuine and truthful, for time and experience cannot mold a man who has no genuineness, truthfulness or morals.

Some people thought that I had asked King Faysal to help us by using the oil weapon. This was not true. For the sake of truth and history, all that I had told King Faysal was: It is my responsibility that we change the situation militarily and fight, and as for your role--I leave that to you. Do what you want and what you can.

I told him verbatim: You are the father of the household and the father of a household knows better who and what is in it. King Faysal was in no need for me to tell him more than that. He was a wise man. He realized this by his wisdom, sagacity and political judgement.

King Faysal was the knight of the oil battle. Arab oil is the lifeline of Western civilization. He knew well that the Arabs could cut this lifeline of Western civilization. Therefore, he led the leaders of the oil states in their historic oil embargo decision in support of the military battle.

Immediately after the October war, King Faysal came to visit Cairo. We went together to visit the Suez Canal and the positions where the noblest Arab battle took place. Despite his poor health he insisted on crossing to the eastern bank of the canal by foot. However, his happiness with victory made him forget everything. Over the Bar-Lev Line positions, which were stormed by our forces, a historic and moving dialogue took place between me and King Faysal.

I told him: We have now crossed the Suez Canal on foot after you fulfilled your promises and pledges. Neither I nor the Egyptian people will forget your support in all the steps that have led to victory and that have restored to the Arabs their pride and dignity. I invoke God to keep you in good health so that we may finish the battle together, God willing.

King Faysal answered: What Saudi Arabia had done was only a national duty which it had to do toward fraternal Egypt and the Arab nation. What I see now is considered a miracle for the entire Arab nation. We will stand on your side in all times.

When we returned to Cairo, King Faysal's happiness with this victory was apparent on his face and in all his behavior and words. I still remember this man and his calm words still ring in my ears. His death was a great loss for Saudi Arabia and for the entire Arab nation. The shots which were fired at him have left an incurable wound in the body of the Saudi Royal family and the entire Arab nation, particularly since the culprit was from the same royal family.

On hearing of the sad news, I immediately left for Saudi Arabia. My personal loss was immense. I lost a dear brother and a genuine friend who was of a great help to me in all situations and who greatly supported our struggle for the common benefit and victory of the Arab nation.

Man is remembered by his stands, justness and commitment. King Faysal was a man who knew the meaning of ethics, friendship, dignity and honor. While he was alive, I told him: You were true in all your promises and you fulfilled all your pledges. I say the same thing now after his death. I remember with pride, gratitude and love a man who in his role was human. This is the greatest thing that can be said about a man. Throughout his life he maintained a stand: A man who adopted a stand of justice and commitment.

TARIQ 'AZIZ INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH TELEVISION

JN191222 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Paris, 19 Mar (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has reiterated that Iraq continues to enjoy the same strength and capability it had at the beginning of the war. Iraq, he added, is not short of arms and is equipped with good amount of arms and ammunition. Alluding to the Tehran rulers' abortive attempt to confront the Iraqi Army, 'Aziz said that Iraq, nevertheless, continues to endeavor to reach a peaceful solution based on principles and legitimate bases.

In an interview with French television's Channel 1, 'Aziz said that the Iranian authorities have adopted negative stands to abort all the peaceful initiatives, such as those of the Islamic Conference, the United Nations and the nonaligned countries. He said that the Iranian authorities responded negatively to these mediations and made contradictory statements without giving any explanation about their ideas for a peaceful solution and for the future of the relations between the two countries. But Iraq responded in an objective manner to all these mediations. Iraq's cooperation, he said, stems from its feelings of responsibility and faith in the legitimate principles.

'Aziz said: We have won the war militarily and our objective now is to continue to score victories. We can say that we can win the war in the end.

Touching on the existing cooperation between Iraq and France, 'Aziz pointed out that his current visit is aimed at holding consultations with French officials on the problems from which the area is suffering as well as on issues of mutual interest. The consultations are traditional due to the existing relations.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that the Iraqi masses believe that they are waging a just war in defense of their rights, sovereignty and stability. That is why they are prepared to offer all sacrifices.

'Aziz recalled President Saddam Husayn's assertion: If the Tehran rulers turn down the peace offers, we will continue the war which we were forced to wage to repulse the aggression and wrest Iraq's pan-Arab rights.

'Aziz explained that Iraq will continue its war regardless of the duration of this war out of self-defense, in defense of the legitimate rights, to repulse the Persian aggression and to halt the Iranian expansion.

FRENCH OFFICIAL ASSURES FULFILLMENT OF COMMITMENTS

JN191912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)--A French parliamentarian has asserted Iraq's right to its sovereignty over its national land and waters. Alain Mayoud, vice president of the group of mayors within the Union for French Democracy of the Giscardian party, has said that Khomeyni's regime is adopting the same aggressive policy as the former shah did. At a press conference here today, he indicated that the Tehran rulers' policy of expansion and usurpation of the land of others would create turbulence in the region and provide the big powers with an opportunity to intervene in its affairs.

Mayoud expressed hope that the exerted effort and good offices would bear fruit in a just solution to the conflict that will guarantee Iraq's legitimate rights and save Iran from fragmentation, enabling the Iranian peoples to hand over power to those who can insure their well-being, freedom and dignity.

The French parliamentarian said that the hostile U.S. and Zionist campaigns would not influence his country's independent policy and its faithfulness to its commitments to Iraq, particularly in matters related to the implementation of Iraq's peaceful nuclear program. He explained that Israel is displeased because it does not want to see in the region an Arab country that enjoys modern technological power. It seeks to partitition the Arab homeland and to control these parts one after the other.

Referring to the Arab-Zionist conflict, the member of the Union for French Democracy said: The Palestinian issue cannot be solved except in a manner decided upon by the Palestinian people and through the Zionist forces' withdrawal from all the Arab territories.

Alain Mayoud denounced continued Zionist acts of aggression against the Arab people in southern Lebanon and said that his country will play a positive role for the regaining of legitimate Arab rights.

On U.S. President Ronald Reagan's policy toward the Arab nation, he said: The present U.S. administration did not come up with anything new. It is following the same policy as that of former President Jimmy Carter.

Alain Mayoud is visiting Iraq at the head of a parliamentary delegation, at the invitation of the National Assembly, to hold talks on strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 280

JN191719 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1638 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)--Communique No 280 issued by the Armed Forces General Command tonight put Persian enemy losses last night and today at 124 dead. The communique said that our forces hit Persian enemy concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] regions, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment. It added that our units destroyed 4 enemy infantry positions, 5 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 14 armored vehicles, 3 field guns, 1 rocket launcher, and 2 observation posts. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 280 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

1. Known enemy losses:

A. Seven vehicles and one field gun were destroyed in the Nowsud region.
B. Four were killed and three infantry positions and two vehicles were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
C. An enemy concentration was sighted in the Gilan-e Gharb region and hit by our units with various weapons, inflicting the following losses: 35 were killed and 2 tanks, 1 vehicle and 1 field gun were destroyed. Another enemy concentration was hit in the same region, killing 27 and destroying 1 tank.
D. A total of 11 were killed and 1 infantry position and 1 observation post were destroyed in the Mehran region.
E. One observation post was destroyed in the Shush region.
F. One of our forward units attacked with various weapons an enemy infantry and armor concentration in the Khafajiyah region and forced it to withdraw after inflicting the following losses: 37 were killed and 2 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 field gun and 1 rocket launcher were destroyed.
G. Three vehicles were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
H. A total of 10 were killed and 1 vehicle was destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 124 dead and 4 infantry positions, 5 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 14 vehicles, 3 field guns, 1 rocket launcher and 2 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 17 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two tanks, one vehicle and one field gun damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 March 1981

SADDAM HUSAYN INSPECTS SOUTHERN VILLAGES

JN191258 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has reaffirmed that the dignity of Iraq's sons is more important than anything else and that Iraq will not relinquish 1 inch of its territory or sovereignty.

Addressing the citizens of a village in the Basra Governorate in southern Iraq, where he spent 3 days on an inspection tour of the governorate's villages, President Saddam Husayn said: With God's help, we will eliminate an 800-year-old oppression imposed on the Iraqis. He added that rendering electric and water service to Iraq's villages is a main task of the revolution. Every single village in Iraq will enjoy all the necessary services.

During the tour President Saddam Husayn inspected the social conditions and standard of living of the peasants. He ate with them. He also inspected the schools and the nature of the education and looked into the schools' needs and the students' educational standard.

President Saddam Husayn also visited Az-Zubayr District, where he inspected a citizen's farm and the agricultureal crops.

NA'IM HADDAD SPEAKS ON WAR DURING MOROCCO VISIT

14 Mar Banquet

JN151009 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Na'im Haddad, speaker of the National Assembly, has asserted that Iraq has been and still is at the disposal of the Arab nation. As an example he referred to Iraq's stand in the October 1973 war when Iraq prevented the Zionist enemy from marching on Damascus and occupying more Arab land.

In a speech delivered at a dinner banquet, held yesterday by Dey Ould Sidi Baba, speaker of the Moroccan Parliament, Haddad said that Iraq supports the Arab nation, and will continue to work for the sake of Arabs until they liberate all of the occupied territories. He also said that Iraq, which has liberated its usurped land from the racist Persian enemy, will not be satisfied with what it has done, but will seriously work for the liberation of Palestinian soil.

The speaker of the Moroccan Parliament praised Iraq's honorable stand in guarding the eastern flank of the Arab homeland on the Arab Gulf. He also praised Iraq's continuous concern with avoiding bloodshed and achieving peace.

17 Mar Meeting

JU171941 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 17 Mar (INA)--Na'im Haddad, Iraqi National Assembly speaker, met here today with Dey Ould Sidi Baba, president of the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives.

This is the second meeting between them since the Iraqi National Assembly delegation's arrival in Morocco last Saturday. During the meeting, which was attended by the Iraqi delegation members and heads of the Moroccan parliamentary delegations, they reviewed bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab region and current international issues.

The National Assembly speaker stressed the importance of these meetings, which convey the genuine spirit of the fraternal Moroccan people, who have throughout our nation's history emphasized their Arab identity as expressed in this nation's civilization and culture. He praised the Moroccan people's struggle against colonialism to emerge victorious protectors of Arabism.

Na'im Haddad stressed that Iraq is fighting the Persian enemy in defense of the region's Arabism and not only in defense of Iraqi lands and waters. He said that if Iraq had not risen up to confront the Iranian regime, the Persian aggression would have extended to the Arab Gulf region.

The Iraqi National Assembly speaker called for deepening ties between the Arab people's sons to deepen democracy in order to halt the practices of the fascist dictatorial regimes aimed at annihilating our Arab people. He said that the Al-Qadhdhafi regime's killing of our people and brothers decisively exposes the true identity of this regime. He also called for exposing the evil forces that are linked with the foreigner and these forces' ugly practices in fraternal Lebanon--practices aimed at eliminating the Arabism and sovereignty of Lebanon and the Palestinian Arab people through the Syrian regime's attempts to control the Lebanese nationalist movement, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese people. Such practices, he said, conflict with the most elementary norms.

Na'im Haddad stressed that Iraq's political, military, economic and cultural potentials and capabilities are the property of the Arab nation and not only of Iraq. He said that Iraq is seeking to achieve Arab economic integration so that we can develop the backward Arab regions and help them establish a new life away from colonialist aid, which obstructs political independence.

Dey Ould Sidi Baba, president of the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives, reiterated Morocco's support for Iraq in its battle and struggle against the Persian enemy because Iraq is fighting on behalf of the Arabs and is defending justice, freedom, democracy and historical values. He expressed the Moroccan people's pride in Iraq and its brave pan-Arab stands in both the Arab and international arena.

The heads of the Moroccan parliamentary groups--the Independence Party, National Assembly of Independents, the Popular Movement and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces--stressed their support for Iraq in its just battle against the Persian enemy and their readiness to carry arms and fight at the side of the fraternal Iraqi people. They evaluated highly Iraq's serious and firm stands on the fateful Arab issues. They also praised Iraq's dedication to unity and its position as an impenetrable wall safeguarding Arabism against the Persian ambitions and miserable attacks. They emphasized that the war waged by Iraq is an Arab war against the racist Persians seeking to obstruct democracy in our Arab homeland. This democracy, they said, is the key to Arab unity and Iraq is seriously and industriously seeking to apply it.

VISITING USSR DEPUTY POWER MINISTER HOLDS TALKS

JN1815+2 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA)--Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, received here today Pavel Petrovich Falaleyev, Soviet first deputy minister of power and electrification. The two sides held talks on economic and technical relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union. They also reviewed topics related to the industrial projects that are being implemented in Iraq by Soviet enterprises. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

REGIME 'CREATING DIVISION' IN PALESTINIAN RANKS

JN150906 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Revolution in Arabic 1540 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Iraqi Fascism and the Palestine Question"]

[Text] Until recently, the Iraqi leadership has considered itself the true defender of the Palestine question. This is no longer the case. Saddam at-Tikriti is creating divisions in the national Palestinian ranks. The Ba'th Party leadership is using funds and privileges in a dirty attempt to turn Palestinian resistance groups against one another and to use certain Palestinian elements to assassinate leaders and members of Palestinian groups which oppose Iraqi policy. The Ba'thist leadership was behind the assassination of PLO representatives in London and Kuwait.

During the previous school year the fascist authorities arrested a number of Palestinian students in Iraqi universities and institutes, especially those belonging to the PFLP. Some of those arrested were ordered out of the country by the puppet leadership in Baghdad. The so-called National Federation of Iraqi Students did not view them as Arab students who had been expelled from their homeland, but as opponents of its criminal ideology.

After the Iraqi fascists had openly sided with imperialism and strengthened their ties with the reactionary Arab states in the region, headed by Saudi Arabia, Saddam at-Tikriti announced at a press conference last month that he agreed to a partial solution of the Palestine question. This is a great change in the position of the Iraqi leadership, which was once the main opponent of the Camp David accords and which also considered Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to be a pan-Arab traitor for starting a dialogue with Israel to solve the Palestine question peacefully.

What does a partial solution or solutions mean in the dictionary of the Iraqi fascists? It means weakening the Palestine question and preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state. They fear that such a state would be a secular pro-Soviet state, and therefore it would be a great threat to the reactionaries in the region. This state, they say, would create tension and develop an explosive political situation in the area.

In a mean attempt to fight the Palestinian resistance, the Arab reactionaries have chosen the Jordanian king to be the representative of the Palestinians and the substitute for the PLO. The [words indistinct] between King Husayn and Saddam at-Tikriti was for the purpose of supporting this ill-omened plan. The Iraqi leadership is playing an obviously dirty role to pave the way for U.S. imperialist plans, which are openly hostile to the peoples of the area and the struggler Palestinian people.

BRIEFS

URUGUAYAN DELEGATION DEPARTURE--Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)--The delegation of the democratic grouping in Uruguay left Baghdad today following a 4-day visit to Iraq. The delegation, which includes (Dibgo Agard) and (Jorenimo Cardozo), held talks with officials in the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on developing relations between the Ba'th Party and the democratic grouping in Uruguay. On behalf of the democratic grouping, the delegation expressed support for Iraq's stand in its war with Iran. It also appreciated the great and positive role played by President Saddam Husayn and his initiative on solving the Iraqi-Iranian dispute by peaceful means based on the recognition of Iraq's national rights and complete sovereignty on its territory and waters. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Mar 81 JN]

AMMAN REPORTS ASSASSINATION, EXECUTIONS IN SYRIA

JN191338 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Reports from Damascus say that, on Sunday, 15 March, a group of people opposing the factional regime in Syria assassinated Maj Haytham ash-Sham'a', a Syrian general intelligence officer, as he was being driven through Ash-Sha'lan quarter in the center of the city of Damascus. His driver was wounded.

Maj Haytham ash-Sham'a' was notorious for suppressive measures of torture, which he carried out against detained Syrian citizens.

In another development the authorities of the ruling regime in Syria have executed 12 officers from the Al-Qabun camps. These officers, whose ranks range between lieutenant and colonel, include Lt Tamir 'Ajaj from the Golan region and another air force officer from the Al-Braydi family, from the village of Naf'ah.

These reports add that the authorities of the terrorist regime in Syria arrested several air force and navy officers during the past weeks. They also discharged a number of officers from the Syrian Army.

Damascus reports say that a list will be issued in a few days, which will include another number of Syrian Army personnel to be discharged. The justification being given is their suspect allegiance.

Reports add that the authorities of the suppressive regime arrested 80 citizens from the villages of the Province of Dar'a who were accused of cooperating with the regime's opponents.

These authorities also destroyed and blew up several houses belonging to the citizens of Aleppo, Latakia, Baniyas, Jisr ash-Shughur, ad-Dana and Al-Janudiyah.

They also carried out a landing operation from 14 helicopters in the village of (Inza'ah), which lies northeast of Aleppo.

AL-QASIM MEETS ENVOYS ON UNRWA FINANCIAL STATUS

JN191836 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim separately received today the ambassadors of France, Britain, Japan and Turkey and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman and reviewed with them UNRWA's financial status. This comes as part of Jordan's intensive move to contact friendly and competent states to expedite the implementation of their commitments to UNRWA to enable it to carry out its responsibilities toward the Palestinian people who are suffering the consequences of international political mistakes, putting them in a state of dispersal and need, thus compelling the international community to back them materially and morally.

At the 75th ordinary session of the Arab League, Jordan will acquaint the fraternal Arab countries with the results of its contacts. It will also urge the fraternal countries to support its move to improve UNRWA's status.

CROWN PRINCE TO UK FOR HOUSE OF COMMONS SPEECH

JN191721 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn this morning saw off His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who left Amman for the United Kingdom to deliver a lecture before the British House of Commons on Arab-European dialogue.

SYRIA, LIBYA REPORTEDLY ASK IRAN TO CONTINUE WAR

JN201032 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Mar 81 p 16

[Text] Beirut--Informed Arab sources in Beirut have stated that Libya and Syria have put pressure on Iran to reject a cease-fire and negotiations with Iraq.

An Arab diplomat in Beirut stated that a joint delegation from the two states visited Tehran during the first week of March and conveyed to the Iranian officials the viewpoints of Al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi, which suggest rejecting the good offices committee's proposals, intensifying military operations and depending on the regular army rather than the revolution guards for at least 4 months.

The Libyan leader pledged to cover the expenses of all Iranian armaments and to search in the world markets for any kind of arms Iran might demand.

In return for Iran's acceptance of these viewpoints, the Syrian president pledged to continue offering military support and military and civilian participation and to increase aid to Iran by sending experts in various kinds of arms.

ALLEGED SYRIAN KILLING OF WOMAN IN FRG CONDEMNED

JN191806 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Station commentary entitled: "Regime of Killers of Women in Exile and Its Inevitable Destiny"]

[Excerpts] The black spite which is growing in the hearts of the factional and sectarian clique ruling over Syria allowed this clique's agents and hirelings to assassinate a virtuous Syrian woman, who preferred living in exile with her husband to facing the disgraceful acts and massacres of the criminal gang ruling Syria. The assassination was carried out cowardly in broad daylight and inside the house where Al-'Attar's wife was living with her husband in Aachen, FRG.

The regime which sinks to the level of criminal murderous gangs in ideology, conduct and practices, as well as in its local, Arab and international relations, can only be listed among those regimes that are governed by the spirit of gangs, revenge and black spite. Even in the worst stages of Arab history, when the assassin movement emerged, moral degeneration did not sink to the level of committing massacres like that of Tudmur military prison, nor the level of chasing a female citizen living with her husband and children in exile merely because she had the nationality of a beloved homeland ruled by a gang by terrorist and unlawful means.

It is time to put a final and decisive end to these ugly crimes so that Arab Syria will restore its genuine Arab character and so that the proud Syrian people emerge from the darkness of primitive centuries to the world of the 20th century and so that Syria will return to the throbbing heart, sharp sword and strong shield of Arabism.

The chain of crimes committed by the factional, sectarian and fascist regime throughout Syria and the international arena must awaken consciences, sharpen intellects and stir up everyone with a proud soul in order to put an end to this spiteful, bloody regime and to its symbols and crimes. The imaginary thin line which used to link the bloody fascist clique with Syria--land and people--has been cut since Syria's factional and sectarian rulers allowed themselves to be immersed in a sea of the Syrian people's blood.

The Syrian people will inevitably say their word about the executioner reign and the hegemonic ruling clique.

LEBANESE ARMY UNIT REDEPLOYED TO AL-QANTARAH

NC191814 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] UN forces commander General Callaghan today said that the Lebanese Army detachment which was redeployed after the border militia shelled Al-Qantarah village will soon return to its previous positions.

General Callaghan told journalists that the return to Al-Qantarah will take place under a new redeployment plan of Lebanese Army units in the UN controlled sector. He said that the new redeployment plan will comprise all UN positions and centers in southern Lebanon.

SARKIS MEETS IRISH DEFENSE MINISTER 19 MAR

NC190952 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] At 0930 today President Ilyas Sarkis met with Irish Defense Minister Sylvester Barrett in the presence of the Irish ambassador in Beirut. They reviewed the developments in the situation in southern Lebanon and discussed the nature of the Israeli attacks against the UN emergency forces as well as the role of the Irish contingent deployed with these forces.

19 Mar Departure

NC191340 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The situation in the south was the subject of discussion between President Ilyas Sarkis and Irish Defense Minister Sylvester Barrett in the presence of the Irish ambassador in Beirut whom he received this morning. They also reviewed the developments of the situation in the area, the Israeli attacks on the UN forces as well as the role of the Irish contingent deployed with these forces.

The Irish defense minister left Beirut this morning after holding talks with senior Lebanese officials on the successive events in the south. He also inspected the Irish contingent deployed with the UN forces.

Before leaving the airport the Irish minister made a statement in which he said: This is the first time I visit Lebanon. The aim of my visit was to inspect the Irish contingent deployed with the UN forces in the south in my capacity as Irish defense minister.

On the results of his contacts in Lebanon he said: This morning I met with President Sarkis and after my arrival last Sunday afternoon I met with Defense Minister Joseph Skaf. We discussed the situation in south Lebanon and the UN forces' role in that area.

When asked have you formed definite ideas on the situation in the south, particularly after your visit to the area, he said: We actually visited south Lebanon yesterday and during the visit I met with the UN forces commander in the south, General Callaghan, and discussed with him the situation there and the task being performed by the UN forces. I also acquainted myself with the situation at first hand and met with the members of the Irish contingent.

The Irish minister was asked: What are your comments on the recent Israeli shelling of some of the UN forces' positions in the south? He answered: We denounce the shelling of any UN forces positions and we believe that it will not serve peace in the area or facilitate the task for which the UN forces came here--the task of restoring peace, stability and security to the area.

AL-JUMAYYIL, SOVIET AMBASSADOR HOLD MEETING

NC191500 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil received in his office today the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, Aleksandr Soldatov, and had a general discussion with him on Lebanese questions and on current events in the area and in the world. The meeting lasted from 1000 to 1330.

After the meeting Soldatov said: A review was made of the situation in Lebanon and in the area, and I am very happy with this review. Asked whether he had formed any particular viewpoint, he said: An exchange of views has taken place. However, as for details Shaykh Pierre can speak about it. As to the Soviet role in relation to resolving the Lebanese crisis, he said: We hope that the meetings will continue, if Shaykh Pierre has no objection.

A dialogue then took place between the Phalangist leader and the journalists which dealt with different topics particularly the discussions with Ambassador Soldatov.

Responding to a question Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: The Soviet ambassador and I had a frank discussion of the situation in Lebanon and the interaction between the area's crisis and the forces concerned. In this context we believe that the Soviet Union and the United States constitute the world policemen. They have a big role to play particularly toward the small states which always pay the price of international conflicts among the big powers in the world. The Phalangist leader continued: It is the responsibility of the Soviet Union and the United States to be both defender and general arbiter of the helpless states. Moreover, it is natural that in relation to Lebanon as a small country they should extend their hands to help it in every sphere, particularly in the political sphere because the Lebanese crisis not an internal one due to the fact that a large group of external forces is mixed up with it.

BRIEFS

NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR--Italy's new ambassador to Lebanon, Luciolo Ottieri Della Ciaja, arrived in Beirut from Rome last night to assume his new post. [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Mar 81 NC]

SOVIET ORIENTAL STUDIES DIRECTOR--This morning President Ilyas Sarkis met with Primakov, the director of the Soviet Oriental Studies Institute, who was accompanied by the attache of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. According to the director of the institute the talks dealt with various questions. [Text] [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Mar 81 NC]

EXPECTED ARMS AID TO 'U.S. FRIENDS' ATTACKED

JN200847 Damascus Voice of Arab Egypt in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Unattributed talk: "Warning"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is about to visit the U.S. bases and colonies in the Middle East. Naturally, Haig will carry gifts, sweets nad precious prizes to those who are sincerely implementing the White House schemes and who are paying the price of their subservience in giving away their countries. Haig will also naturally carry with him the destructive arms deals, the napalm bombs, bombers and missiles to defend the subservients and to intimidate the Arab people or, rather, the area's peoples.

We, the Arab people, have been receiving the White House gifts for a long time. We received them in Sinai, upper Egypt, the Suez Canal, Abu Za'bal, Bahr al-Baqar school and the revolution's economic installations. We are daily receiving these gifts in southern Lebanon, northern Lebanon and Palestine.

Our Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf, are daily receiving the White House gifts. These are represented by intimidation, killing and division in support of racist Zionism. That is why the 'Abidin and other palaces are pleased to receive Haig. The gifts and prizes and the price will be paid boundlessly to the entire ruling family. It is expected that the Arab people will confront the coming U.S. schemes and wage the battles of sacrifice against the arsenal of arms which will be opened by Haig to his friends, who are our enemies.

Haig said yesterday that Israel, Egypt and other Arab countries must have sufficient military force because this, according to Haig, is bound to stabilize the situation as desired by the White House. In his address to the congressional Foreign Affairs Committee, Haig said that the Reagan administration will give as aid the sum of $6.8 billion, the majority of which will be granted to the friends of the United States in the Middle East and to the Egyptian and Israeli Governments in particular.

Naturally, Haig will not send As-Sadat's share in the form of houses to solve the housing crisis in the Cairo graveyards; it will also not be food or factories. It will be fatal weapons to be used against the Arab people in Egypt and in the homeland and in the service of the U.S. schemes. The U.S. aid to the Zionist entity will also naturally consist of fatal weapons to be used against the Arab people to achieve the dream of Zionism of a land free of people.

Haig has not forgotten to praise As-Sadat, to describe him as loyal and sincere to the White House and to say that consequently, he must be supported and helped to proceed with colonializing our people in Egypt, because President as-Sadat, according to Haig, can guarantee most of the White House's vital interests.

These are their schemes and those are the executioners; we, the Arabs and the Arabs in Egypt specifically, are the targets. Let our confrontation ability be at the size of the plot and plotters. The Arab people will not be an easy prey to any of the colonialists.

AL-BA'TH REPORTS ON ARREST OF IRAQI ARMY OFFICERS

NC161208 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 16 Mar (AFP)--The Iraqi Government has had 176 members of its armed forces executed and put several officers under arrest, the Syrian daily AL-BA'TH reported today. The paper, organ of Syria's ruling party, said that among those arrested were divisional and brigade commanders, including a general, two colonels and a lieutenant-colonel. AL-BA'TH added that an Iraqi student, named as Said al-Karim, had been tortured to death in detention and a "progressive" writer, Mohammad Salman Hasan and a former minister, Saleh al-Yussufi, were both under arrest.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION

Begin Proposal

TA191307 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Mar 81 p 1, 8

[By military correspondent Eytan Haber]

[Text] Jerusalem is now awaiting a reply from Lebanon to the prime minister's proposal for a meeting between Lebanese and Israeli delegations to discuss the situation created in southern Lebanon and to resolve the problems that have recently arisen.

In Jerusalem they stress, however, that the meeting, if it indeed takes place, will not be held in the framework of the Israel-Lebanese armistice committee, which has been abolished. Diplomatic and defense circles expressed cautious optimism this morning regarding the chances of such a meeting. In their opinion it is a definite possibility as various other meetings were in the past.

In the meantime, until such a meeting takes place, Mr Begin issued instructions to moderate activity as much as possible and to minimize friction points in southern Lebanon, so as not to affect the UN forces and consequently Israel's image abroad. It appears that Begin is angry at Major Haddad's excessive activity and the fact that his forces caused the deaths of three Nigerian UNIFIL troops.

Deputy Defense Minister Tzipori told YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "Major Haddad occasionally causes us unpleasantness and trouble we could well do without and which do not make any positive contribution to Israel or to Major Haddad himself. Israel has to deal with this matter."

Pressure on Haddad

TA191304 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Mar 81 pp 1, 15

[By Ya'aqov Erez and Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Israel has made it clear to the United States and to other countries that asked it for clarifications on the recent events in southern Lebanon that Major Haddad was firmly requested to prevent firing incidents. However, Israel has also announced that it would not abandon the Christian forces in southern Lebanon and would not permit the liquidation of the area controlled by Major Haddad.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said this morning: "Following the murder of the Nigerian troops we have issued stricter instructions in southern Lebanon and have stepped up the pressure on Haddad. We will hold detailed discussions regarding this issue but we will not allow the liquidation of the enclaves."

Mr Tzipori stressed: "The southern Lebanon situation will apparently be now given to pressures for change, which is not to our liking." He pointed out that the new UN command in the region again attempts to realize its old policy of taking control of the south, by new means.

Senior Israeli sources point out that the initiative taken by the new UNIFIL commander, Brigadier General Callaghan, is in line with the Syrian and the PLO initiative. They argue that the Lebanese Army troops that penetrated into the south are loyal to Syria and their very presence in the area poses a threat to Israel.

Discussions are due today at the defense establishment on the measures to be taken in order to avoid clashes with the UN forces and the deterioration of relations with friendly countries.

It has been learned that the U.S. has appealed to Israel through diplomatic channels asking it to urgently do everything in its power to stop Major Haddad and his militia forces from acting against UNIFIL units in south Lebanon.

The United States has stated that it was taking a grave view of Major Haddad's actions and urged Israel to restrain him.

In addition to the U.S. protest, reports reached Jerusalem about angry reactions among West European countries whose soldiers serve in southern Lebanon.

The prime minister, in his capacity as defense minister instructed the chief of staff to exercise Israel's influence to cool Major Haddad's activity against the UNIFIL forces. U.S. diplomatic sources reacted favorably to the positive response of the prime minister to the requests to Israel on this issue.

IDF-UNIFIL Meeting

TA191248 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv--The feud between Israel and UN forces in south Lebanon escalated yesterday after a meeting officially described by the IDF as "tense and chilly" between OC Northern Command Avigdor Ben-Gal and UNIFIL Commander General William Callaghan of Ireland.

At the 30-minute meeting in Nazareth, held in the wake of Monday's fatal artillery attack by Israel-backed forces under Major Sa'd Haddad, Callaghan issued far-reaching demands, according to the unprecedented army statement. Forthrightly rejecting them, the communique accused Callaghan of being "demonstratively unsympathetic" to Israel.

The UN officer wants free access for UNIFIL throughout south Lebanon, withdrawal of Haddad's troops from four strongholds in the area, described by the IDF as main routes used by PLO squads on their way to attack Israel, and an end to Israel's presence alongside the Haddad forces.

The UNIFIL spokesman denied that the meeting was at all tense.

"We're still in a state of shock over Callaghan's rudeness and arrogance," a well-placed Israeli source said.

Right from the start, he added, the UN commander set a "tense and depressing" mood. He marched into the room, announced he had only 30 minutes to spare and rattled off his demands.

The UNIFIL commander behaved "as if he were the world's secretary-general" the highly placed source reported. He didn't let others speak and interrupted Ben-Gal. When his host gently called him to order, Callaghan retorted: "I'm sorry. The Lord created me that way."

The source said he believed Callaghan wanted to chalk up successes before UNIFIL's mandate expires in May. Callaghan "can't clear the UNIFIL area of the 700 terrorists there, so he decided to pressure Israel. We're going to have a very hot summer unless he's told to stop," the source predicted.

Ben-Gal rejected Callaghan's demands "on the spot," and stressed the danger inherent in changing the status quo and in the attempts of the new UNIFIL commander to create new facts in the field too hastily.

"It was these attempts that brought about the regrettable outbreaks between the forces of Major Haddad and the Lebanese platoon," the statement continued. This was a reference to Haddad's shelling of Al-Qantarah on Sunday and Monday, in which two Nigerian UNIFIL soldiers were killed and about 20 wounded, one of them critically.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said later he was "completely amazed" by the IDF statement. The meeting was "anything but tense," he claimed.

Callaghan did not demand Israeli withdrawal from the enclave, or that it withhold all assistance from Haddad, the spokesman said. "It was a courtesy call, (and) it was not the time nor the place for any deep political discussions," he continued.

Callaghan referred to the IDF's presence in south Lebanon only once--when requesting that its vehicles refrain from driving past UNIFIL headquarters in An-Naqurah, Goksel maintained. The IDF was discreet in the past, using side roads but lately it has "blatantly driven jeeps past the headquarters," he said.

Goksel went on to deny the IDF's claim that the four positions Callaghan wants Haddad to evacuate are along routes used by terrorists.

The UNIFIL spokesman said freedom of movement is important for the forces' observers and for sending supplies. He denied that Callaghan wanted to send the Lebanese Army to the border. "We don't make such unrealistic demands. We can't do it ourselves, so how can we expect the Lebanese Army to do it?" he asked.

But the IDF spokesman maintained that Callaghan wanted to restore the situation which existed before the 1978 Litani operation, when Israel pushed into south Lebanon and cleared the terrorists from the area.

"The Lebanese Army is a myth, and if it reaches the border, Haddad must disappear. Will it stop the terrorists? Bullshit. Let (that army) control Beirut first," an Israeli source said.

Later in Beirut, Callaghan, shown Israel's account of the meeting, said with a shrug: "It is the prerogative of the host to make a statement." He declined further comment.

But another UN official said that the atmosphere at the meeting "was not exactly jolly." The official, who declined to be identified, declined comment on charges that forceful "demands" had been made. He noted that a battalion of Lebanese Government forces had been sent to the southern area, and he hoped more would take up positions.

Meanwhile, at the site of Monday's shelling UNIFIL troops reinforced their positions around the battered village of Al-Qantarah and vowed to retaliate against any renewed shelling by Haddad's forces.

Two platoons of troops--one Irish, the other Dutch--armed with mortars, heavy machineguns and anti-tank rockets took up positions outside the village. A UN spokesman said the area has been quiet, but added that UNIFIL forces have been ordered to retaliate against any new assault "with whatever our defensive capability allows and with whatever we have."

He conceded that any fight would be a mismatch, since the heaviest weapons the 75 to 80 UN troops in Al-Qantarah have are shoulder-launched anti-tank rockets, 12-mm mortars and 50-calibre machineguns.

Haddad's forces, by comparison, have field artillery, heavy mortars and, reportedly, tanks.

Israel TV reported last night that Prime Minister Menahem Begin had instructed Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan to meet with Haddad and urge the militia leader to do whatever possible to cool tension in the area.

In response, Haddad announced last night that four Lebanese soldiers kidnapped last week near Al-Qantarah will be released today.

Cause of Tension

TA191317 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Israel has no control over Major Haddad's actions in southern Lebanon, and Haddad has no control over the actions of the residents in the enclave, nor of all the different units in southern Lebanon which have different political affiliations, and which occasionally act independently. When fire is directed at settlements in southern Lebanon, the different militia units return fire. This was learned in Jerusalem yesterday.

The reason for the recent tension is the change in the status quo created in the Shi'ite village of Al-Qantarah, which is situated in a region that should have been under UNIFIL control, but actually was under the control of the Shi'ite militia that is connected with Major Haddad's forces.

Haddad's Position

TA191715 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The commander of the [Christian] forces in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'id Haddad, today said he would resist with force any attempt to move Lebanese Army troops into the eastern district, as announced yesterday by the UNIFIL commander, General William Callaghan. Haddad accused the UNIFIL commander of not having made enough efforts to restore peace in the area.

[Begin recording] [Haddad--in English] No new policy, nothing changed in the whole situation of Lebanon. Lebanon is still under occupation--Syria and PLO occupation--and the so-called Lebanese Army still receives orders from the Syrians. [end recording]

In the past, we did not agree to the arrival of the Lebanese auxiliary forces, Haddad added. These forces were sent by the Syrian Army and receive orders from them.

In the same context, Haddad added that the UNIFIL commander in southern Lebanon, General Callaghan, had not consulted with him before he decided to bring the Lebanese troops to southern Lebanon. The commander of the Christian militia went on to say that he would not allow the Lebanese Army to deploy in southern Lebanon. It is a question of life or death, Haddad concluded.

Further Report

TA191810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The commander of the Christian militia has said that the Christians were not responsible for tension in southern Lebanon.

Major Sa'd Haddad is now trying to understand the meaning of the message sent to him by Israeli political elements, which mainly contains an appeal for moderation and restraint. This appeal is ambiguous, to say the least, elements in Haddad's camp have said. Correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Begin recording] The appeal of Israeli political elements to Haddad to reduce the points of friction in southern Lebanon was received with embarrassment and even anger by the militia. Elements in Haddad's camp wonder: What is the meaning of moderation and what the Israeli political elements mean when they speak about restraint. The Lebanese Army has already deployed a unit in Al-Qantarah which began disarming the inhabitants and tearing apart the delicate structure of the enclave. Haddad is unwilling to accept a change in the status quo and any move to tip the balance would therefore encounter opposition on his part.

Haddad has been waging a war against the terrorists for 5 years. Despite UNIFIL's presence on the site, these terrorists shell the enclave and cause death and injuries. Haddad does not recognize the Lebanese Army and he links it to the Syrian Army.

The prime minister's appeal yesterday to moderate activities has given rise to questions among Haddad's forces, such as: How is the militia supposed to act in case other Lebanese Army troops arrive in Al-Qantarah or in case the terrorists expand their positions in the area following the arrival of these troops? There is a powerplant in An-Nabatiyah that supplies electricity to southern Lebanon. An-Nabatiyah is controlled by the terrorists. Every now and then the terrorists cut the electricity supply to the enclave and Haddad is then forced to fire a shell. The shell is called a power-resuming shell in the local jargon.

The message is clear. Haddad now wonders: How is the militia expected to act and what is the meaning of restraint? Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan also referred to the difficulty in restraining Haddad because Haddad tells the Israelis they do not restrain themselves when Qiryat Shemona is shelled and because Haddad does not have full control over the entire armed population within his territory.

Another point raised by members of Haddad's camp: It is true that care should be taken not to hurt UNIFIL. However, on the other hand, the new UNIFIL commander, Callaghan--who does not know the area and its mentality--cannot change the status quo. Moreover, Callaghan cannot protect Haddad from shellings and mines. [end recording]

Criticism of Haddad

TA200700 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Criticism of Maj Sa'd Haddad's actions in southern Lebanon is growing stronger. This is combined with the appeal that the militia's activity in southern Lebanon be restrained. Yesterday Major Haddad said nobody is authorized to give him orders.

[Begin recording] [Haddad in English] Nobody can give order to the area but for the friendship and the cooperation made between Israel and UN and trust, the common trust between our two countries and two peoples. He [Prime Minister Begin] is asking.... [end recording]

[Announcer--interrupts] The commander of the Christian militia says nobody can give orders in the region. In reaction to the prime minister's appeal that the militia's activity in southern Lebanon be restrained, Haddad says that due to the friendship, cooperation and mutual trust between Israel and the Christians he will do his utmost to mitigate tension.

However, in his opinion, it is the UNIFIL soldiers who are responsible for the recent incidents that have increased tension. According Maj Sa'd Haddad, it was under the aegis of the UNIFIL soldiers that the Lebanese Army soldiers, who are guided by the Syrians, arrived in the region with the intention of conquering the area controlled by the militia.

IDF Denial

TA192109 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2040 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Government Press Office release]

[Text] Jerusalem, 19 Mar--The IDF spokesman has denied a television report broadcast last night regarding an alleged meeting and conversation between the chief of staff and Maj Sa'd Haddad following the incident in Al-Qantarah. The chief of staff has not met Major Haddad in over 1 month and the only recent conversation between the two men took place prior to the incident in Al-Qantarah when the chief of staff phoned Major Haddad and congratulated him on the occasion of the birth of his sixth daughter.

PLO Position

TA200939 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[By Arab affairs correspondent 'Oded Zaray]

[Excerpt] The PLO yesterday rejected the pleas of Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and senior Lebanese personalities to freeze its activities against Israel from southern Lebanon acc rding to the agreement reached under pan-Arab aegis with the Lebanese Government.

Arab sources in Beirut noted that the PLO leaders--who are supported by the Syrians on this issue-made it absolutely plain to the official Lebanese representatives that the terrorist squads would continue their activities against Israel and against Major Haddad's militias. All the appeals of the Arab capitals to the Lebanese Government urging it to exert its influence on the PLO to fulfill its part in the agreement have encountered no response.

The same sources added that senior Lebanese ministers and personalities urged the government to temporarily retract the decision made under Syrian pressure to send additional Lebanese Army troops to the south. The sources asked not to implement the decision until the time is "ripe" and not to make another attempt to send another platoon to the village of Al-Qantarah. However, an official Lebanese source told reporters last night that the decision to send additional troops to the south was still valid and in effect. This issue was also the main topic in a message sent yesterday by Major Haddad to Lebanese Army Commander General Victro Khuri. The message was sent through one of the four Lebanese Army soldiers who were taken prisoner at the beginning of this week and who was released yesterday.

PERES 'SECRET MEETINGS' WITH ARABS PROMPT REACTION

Initial Report of Meetings

TA191926 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shi'on Peres today visited in Morocco and held a lengthy talk with King Hassan. This is reported by correspondent Nisim Mish'al. Our correspondent has further learned that during his visit in London this week, Peres met with a brother of King Husayn of Jordan. Our correspondent Hisim Mish'al supplies additional details:

[Mish'al] Shim'on Peres arrived in Morocco yesterday. He spent the night at an official residence of the Moroccan Government. Today he conducted a lengthy talk with King Hassan. They held an intimate talk and it was not attended by advisers and aides of either side.

At the talk Mr Peres again raised the Jordanian option as a possible solution to the conflict on our eastern border. Among other things King Hassan expressed interest at finding a solution to the problem of Jerusalem. Peres apparently replied that if the Alignment rose to power he would seek a speedy conclusion of the negotiations on the autonomy and on first implementing the autonomy in Gaza. Afterward he would try and find a solution to the problem of Jerusalem in coordination with Saudi Arabia. Peres did not, however, meet only with the Moroccan king. During his visit in London on Tuesday he conferred with one of the brothers of King Husayn of Jordan. As far as is known, he did not meet Prince Hassan but with another of King Husayn's brothers. At the meeting Peres received the impression that the Jordanians do not categorically reject the Jordanian option. The king's brother apparently said that Jordan's real position would only be published if official negotiations were to take place between Israel and Jordan.

These are merely the first details about Peres' meetings with Arab personalities. These meetings are apparently designed to examine a possible political settlement immediately after the elections, if, of course, the Alignment resumes power. This is all from the studio in Tel Aviv.

[Moderator] Mr Peres returned to Israel a short time ago. He refused to answer journalists' questions on this issue at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Official, Parties React

TA191949 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1928 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] As you may recall, the first item we reported this evening was about the two meetings Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres held with Arab leaders. We have already received initial reactions to this report about Peres' meetings with King Hassan of Morocco and with Jordan King Husayn's brother in London. Our correspondent Nisim Mish'al reports from our Tel Aviv studio:

[Mish'al] A senior source at the prime minister's office described Peres' meetings with King Hassan in one word: scandalous. The same source added that this is the very first time that a member of the opposition has conducted political negotiations with countries which are in a state of enmity and hostility with Israel.

Likud faction chairman MK Avraham Sharir said, and I quote: The Purim holiday meeting of Shim'on Peres with King Hassan is an election trick. Meetings of Alignment and Arab leaders for 30 years have not borne fruit whereas one term with the Likud in power has registered an illustrious record in relations with the Arab countries. Coalition chairman, MK Hayim Korfu, said that this is merely a spectacular act to improve the image of the Labor Party chairman. MK Gad Ya'acobi of the Alignment said that the meetings held by Shim'on Peres are customary and there have been similar precedents in the past. According to Ya'acobi, these meetings may locate a way out of the political freeze caused by the Likud government.

Foreign Minister's Comments

TA200539 Jerusalem Domestic Serivce in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it clear he did not know about the meeting between Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres and Moroccan King Hassan. He added that he will react to the affair only after he learns of its full details. Knesset Member Peres' meetings with the Moroccan king and with one of the Jordanian king's brothers were termed a scandal by the prime minister's office last night. The prime minister's office stated that Peres' meetings can foil the autonomy talks and harm Israel's interests.

Peres' Meeting Denial

TA200741 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Mar 81 pp 1, 2

[By Daniyel Bloch and Arye Kinarti]

[Excerpts] Shim'on Peres will apparently not leave on additional political trips abroad until the elections, although an invitation has been recently received from the editor of the Egyptian magazine OCTOBER, Anis Mansur, to visit Egypt in May.

Replying to journalists' questions at Ben-Gurion airport upon his return from Paris last night, Peres said: "I did not meet with Arab personalities or other politicians in Europe." Peres told the DAVAR correspondent last night that he had visited in Geneva, London and Paris. He added: "I did not make a trip around the world in 3 days; I stayed in Europe." Referring to the Likud's reaction to his meetings with Arab leaders, Peres said: "The Likud is making up news about me." Commenting on a remark by the DAVAR correspondent that it would be a "happy Purim" [Jewish festival] in the political scene as a result of these meetings and that the Likud would "pick on him" on this issue in the election campaign, Peres said: "Let them pick on me. I hope to survive the Likud's attacks."

Speaking on Peres' behalf, Labor Party spokesman Yosi Beilin, who accompanied Peres in his visit and returned with Peres last night, said he could not comment on the names cited on the television newscast last night. Beilin said that the "story about Peres' meeting with Arab leaders are manipulated by the Likud" and that "Peres is not conducting any negotiations with Arab political elements." Beilin said he did not know about a meeting between Peres and the Moroccan king and King Husayn's brother.

Justice Minister's Remarks

TA200810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Justice Minister Moshe Nisim believes no legal proceedings should be taken against MK Shim'on Peres for his meetings with the senior Arab personages. However, Minister Nisim says that in his meeting with Moroccan King Hassan and with King Husayn's brother Peres did something that should not have been done.

[Begin Nisim recording] In theory there could be room for a check on whether these meetings violate the country's laws. However, the problem is political and public rather than legal. There is no precedent to this case of an opposition member initiating meetings with personages from enemy countries and trying to conduct negotiations with them. However, this is not a serious meeting by a man who uses various tricks in trying to improve the image of unreliability that has always been attached to him. The whole meeting is intended for publicity only.

The opposition leader's party is angry about the publication of Likud government members' meetings with Moroccan King Hassan and Jordan's King Husayn about 3 years ago. But the difference is that our meetings were conducted in secret and yielded a peace treaty while Peres' demonstrative meetings will yield only bitter disappointment. Peres is wandering around like a vendor trying to sell his trite and hopeless merchandise of the Jordanian option. Here too, I have no doubt that he has been unsuccessful and disappointed. Soon Peres will stand the people's trial. [end recording]

Begin Foreknowledge

TA200625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin knew in advance about the meeting expected to take place between Shim'on Peres and Moroccan King Hassan.

Our political correspondent has learned that MK Peres had reported this to the prime minister and that Mr Begin had not expressed objection to the meeting although he was not satisfied with the plan. Security personnel who are responsible for safeguarding Israeli personalities were also informed of the meeting and they indeed safeguarded Peres during his stay in Morocco. [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 20 March, pages 1 and 2 adds: The meeting with King Hassan was to have been held about 2 months ago. However, at that time the Moroccan king departed ahead of schedule for Riyadh and therefore the meeting was held only now.]

In contrast, the prime minister and his office's staff did not know about the meeting between Shim'on Peres and one of King Husayn's brothers in London. It seems that the meeting in London was accidental, not planned. Our correspondent reports that the Peres-Hassan meeting in Morocco had not been arranged through Israeli official elements but through personalities friendly with Peres.

Moroccan Denial

TA200908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Morocco has officially denied that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres met with King Hassan this week. The King's confidants stated in a telephone conversation with our correspondent in Paris, Freddy Eytan, that the king has been staying in the city of Marrakech for 2 weeks now and has not met with any Israeli personage. However, they confirmed that Peres has met King Hassan in the past.

Meeting Substance Report

TA200925 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Mar 81 pp 1, 11

[By Ilan Kfir, Avi Bettelheim, Barukh Me'iri and Paris correspondent Tamar Golan]

[Excerpts] The opinions and positions MK Shim'on Peres heard in his meetings with King Hassan of Morocco yesterday and the Jordanian Prince Muhammad on Wednesday may change the political plans of the Alignment. This was reported this morning by sources at the Labor Party.

In view of the opinions Peres heard during his meetings, it became apparent that political flexibility on various issues--reaching beyond the Labor Party's well-known positions--may pave the way for negotiations with additional Arab countries, first and foremost Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, the same sources emphasized that the Alignment would not forsake any vital and security interests of the state of Israel.

Upon his return to Israel last night Peres denied reports that he had met with Arab personalities or European politicians. It has been reported from Morocco that King Hassan is very angry about the wide coverage given in Israel to his meeting with the Labor Party chairman.

It has been learned that during the meeting yesterday the Moroccan king expressed willingness to mediate between Shim'on Peres and Arab leaders, were Peres to be elected as Israeli prime minister.

The two meetings with King Hassan and with Jordanian Prince Mohammad, King Husayn's brother, were initiated by the Arabs. The meeting in Morocco took place at King Hassan's palace in the Moroccan capital of Rabat.

It has been learned that there were fundamental differences of opinion between the two men regarding the Palestinian issue, the future of Judaea and Samaria and the problem of Jerusalem. It has been learned that King Hassan spoke at length about Jerusalem and explained how a positive solution to this problem and Israeli flexibility could help the peace process.

An official Moroccan source last night refused to either deny or confirm reports about Peres' secret visit. He said: "We usually do not publish or deny anything regarding secret meetings and we will not divert from our custom this time following the publication in Israel." Moroccan sources have said that they had for a long time known about Peres' desire to meeting King Hassan II. This meeting was canceled several times in the past.

Peres met Jordanian Prince Muhammad in a private apartment in London on Wednesday. The prince's brother, King Husayn, knew about the meeting between the two men. In this meeting Mr Peres explained the principles of the Jordanian option favored by the Alignment and that Israel would be ready to start negotiations at once with Jordan on the principle of territorial compromise. Prince Muhammad refrained from making any commitment on Jordan's intentions. However, he promised to convey the message to King Husyan.

Peres Statement

TA201220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1145 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpts from statement by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres at a news conference at the Labor Party center in Tel Aviv on 20 March--recorded]

[Text] I am completely surprised at what has happened over the last 24 hours, at the irresponsible role played by the Likud and also the communications media to a certain extent. I hold meetings--both overt and covert--with Arab leaders. In those cases where I think this requires the prime minister's approval, I inform the prime minister just as I have done in the required case. I received an unreserved permission to hold this meeting.

I do not intend to publicize with whom I met and with whom I did not meet. The condition for these meetings is that they should not be disclosed; the condition is that they remain secret. I think it is extremely important to hold secret meetings and I regret that the government, both directly and indirectly, allows the publication of all or most secret meetings with Arab leaders.

I can view this only as an attempt to ruin the possibility of having contacts with countries such as Jordan and others, to kill what is referred to in today's jargon as the Jordanian option. Otherwise, it is difficult for me to understand why a ministerial committee approved the (?explanation) of the holding of meetings with Husayn and why the prime minister addressed himself to this subject.

This is, however, one part of the story. The second part which is the most grave as far as I am concerned is that a complete fabrication was transmitted to the communications media about the contents of the talks. In my talks with Arab leaders I make it categorically clear that the Labor Party is in favor of unified Jerusalem and defensible borders and is against negotiations with the PLO, against negotiations on the establishment of a Palestinian state. This is clear-cut whether it is said in open or secret meetings. Yesterday, on television, the report on the contents of my talks was totally unfounded and fabricated. Nobody attended these talks, after all, except me and my interlocutors. I do not intend to refer to my meeting with King Hassan since the Moroccan palace has issued a denial and the denial, for me, puts an end to this.

I believe in Israel's power to influence the Arab world, that Israel can be presented in the most possible constructive, positive and honorable manner. It is in vain that the government or parts of it try to present Israel's isolation as a big achievement or as a favorable situation.

I would also like to state that I was taken fully by surprise by a justice minister who has descended to a level that I could not conceive an Israeli minister could ever descend to. A person who does not know facts, a person who does not know whether a meeting has or has not been held, a person who does not know the contents of the meeting, a person who does not even know whether or not if such a meeting were held, it was fully authorized. Can such a person open his mouth and pass a judgment? Has anyone heard of such a thing before.

We have always dreamed that we could hold contacts with the Arabs, that we could influence them. I see no reason to reject such a possibility. I am the opposition leader; I do not conduct negotiations, but it is my duty to state my views both in the Knesset and outside it. My views are authoritative. They are views which represent a large and responsible public in Israel. The Likud's style is irresponsible and destructive, combined with a clear and sizable element of provocation.

Commentary Supports Peres

TA200903 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Mar 81 p 1

[Dorit Gefen commentary: "Legitimate and Timely"]

[Text] While the Likud has been using the long months of the elections campaign to justify the political stalemate and the suspension of the negotiations of the autonomy, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has been proving that even while being in the opposition it is possible to make important international connections and to initiate meetings with Arab leaders. The meetings between Peres and King Hassan in Morocco and with King Husayn's brother in London are legitimate and timely.

The hastiness displayed by the Likud in its demagogical reactions against Peres' meetings of the personal kind attest to its impotence and "big mouth." Prime Minister Menahem Begin was the one who mockingly and intentionally "leaked" a report to the Knesset against the moderate king who met with Peres, just to inflict harm upon the chairman of the Labor Party.

Shim'on Peres' initiatives should not be considered political negotiations--as the Likud tries to portray them--but as an attempt, on the one hand, to voice the Alignment's positions and, on the other hand, to listen to the moods prevailing in the Arab world in order to look for a way to expand the peace process stalled by the Likud.

LARGE IDF EXERCISE IN SOUTH ENDS ON 19 MAR

TA191613 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Jerusalem, 19 Mar--A large IDF exercise which started at the beginning of this week in the south of Israel ended at dawn today with a parachute drop by a selected infantry unit, followed by the drop of armored personnel carriers from Hercules aircraft.

At the beginning of the exercise these same soldiers, aboard their armored personnel carriers, were the first to cross a water obstacle and then climbed the opposite bank of the obstacle and assaulted the target. The rest of the troops followed.

This exercise was one of the largest carried out by the IDF in the last few years. It in included armored and infantry forces as well as artillery, engineer and ordnance units and regular and reserves forces. The air force also played an important role in the exercise in which the most advanced and sophisticated IDF warfare methods and weapons were used. The complex and challenging exercise was conducted on both sides of the green line, in the Sinai and in the Negev. It was closely followed by senior IDF commanders. At one stage the exercise was observed by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan and by IDF staff officers.

ALGERIA

SENEGALESE CONDEMN MOROCCAN VIOLATION OF TERRITORY

LD191934 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The violation of the inviolability of Senegalese territory by the Moroccan regime, which used it as a base for launching aggression against Mauritania on Monday, has aroused the indignation of Senegalese citizens, who have condemned this violation.

The resident APS correspondent in Dakar said the man in the street and diplomatic quarters in the Senegalese capital consider that the maneuver aimed at involving the government of President Abdou Diouf had utterly failed. These quarters reiterate that the Moroccan regime intended to stab the Senegalese Government in the back.

On the other hand, the Mauritanian news agency said that the Mauritanian Government has decided to expel all Moroccan diplomats from the country before this Saturday. The agency added that the Mauritanian Government will guarantee the security and lives of these Moroccan nationals while inside Mauritanian territory.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

LD192148 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The brother commander attended an educational ceremony held at the Al-Fatah University this evening for the distribution of graduation certificates to the 1978-80 graduates who have gained their MA degrees.

The commander of the revolution delivered a speech at the ceremony. He congratulated the brother graduates, saying that whenever a new group of students graduates we feel an increase in our independence in numerous fields. The battle of education, he said, is the primary battle man fights to triumph over the problems that face him. He affirmed that without education and the unmasking of its laws there can be no civilization or progress.

The commander of the revolution said: We are approaching a cultural revolution which will demolish the traditional forms of education and the traditional educational institutions which were inherited from the reactionary society.

Addressing the students and graduates he said: The battle demands from you to use all the weapons you possess so that we may triumph in this battle as we did in all the previous battles. By our triumph in this cultural battle, the commander said, we will be able to build a framework for a new kind of education compatible with the new jamahiri society--a society in which we hope all man's ambitions will be realized and man will attain the stage of creativity and che unleashing of his capabilities, for then he will be a free man.

The brother commander of the revolution pointed out that education as it is today, with its present institutions, is contrary to the structure of the new jamahiri society, which has evolved as a result of the constant escalation of the revolution and as a result also of the new changes that have taken place in the political, economic and social fields and which have, in the end, toppled the old society. That old society, he said, was based on exploitation and repression which in turn flourished at the expense of the freedom of man and society.

With the destruction of the traditional educational framework, he said, a new type of education with new frameworks in line with the nature of the new society, the society of the masses, will be built. The brother commander added: This battle is yours, and fighting it is your responsibility. He who fails to fight in this battle, he said, is a coward. This is because we are actually marching forward toward the establishment of the jamahiriyah in which all matters are resolved in a manner which servies the interests of the popular masses and in which we retrieve all that was lost for many long centuries.

He pointed out that the battle was not one of rifles and guns, fought by soldiers in traditional military uniforms, but one of education and knowledge. The responsibility for fighting this battle and offering sacrifices for it and achieving victory in it, he said, is that of the students and graduates. For it is no less grave than many of the basic battles fought on the road of building a new society and the demolition of the old society.

Addressing the students and graduates, he said: All I care about is that this battle is fought and to explain to you its idea and plan. Its responsibility falls on your shoulders because it concerns you, for you are in a better position to know what are its objectives and how to tackle them. With your success in this battle, he said, the traditional present educational institutions will disappear--institutions such as colleges and their like--and will be replaced by a new framework which will realize the objectives of the new society. The traditional curricula, which are inherited, will also disappear and will be replaced by a new revolutionary technological curriculim through which, he said, we will be abled to solve the problems facing us, for science is there to serve man and to solve his problems. Otherwise, there is no use for science.

ACCUSATIONS OF LIBYAN SUPPORT OF TERROR DENOUNCED

LD191515 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Mar 81 p 7

['Azzam Yunis interview with the director of the Libyan External Information Department, Dr Khalifah al-'Azbi--date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] Dr Khalifah al'Azbi, director of the Libyan Jamahiriyah External Information Department, said that the trend of Libyan information is pan-Arab and unionist and that information coordination between the Jamahiriyah and Syria is a matter of course within the framework of comprehensive unity between two effective members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

Dr al'Azbi said that the Jamahiriyah is the target of a vicious, intensive and systematic campaign led by the Egyptian regime with the aim of accusing Libya of terrorism. The world must realize that there is a vital difference between revolution and terror. In the world's biased view the daily Zionist bombing of Lebanese towns and villages and Palestinian camps is a legitimate action. Real terror in fact is the intimidation of peoples, the building up of air forces and naval forces, and threatening people with starvation, he added.

Dr al-'Azbi asserted that rightist and fascist elements in the Italian Parliament are the ones leading a campaign of distortion against Libya, a campaign which is in the interests of neither peoples and for which the Italian people are responsible.

Dr al-'Azbi said that the Jamahiriyah is the target of an intensive, systematic and coordinated colonialist and reactionary campaign aiming at one thing: namely to accuse Libya of terrorism. We refuse to be accused of terrorism and the world must understand that there is a vital difference between terror and revolution. The liberation of Palestine is not terrorism and the liberation of Namibia and Zimbabwe is not terrorism. Either real terrorism is terrorizing peoples with aircraft, navies, and maneuvers as well as violating the airespace of peaceful countries.

I must point out in this regard, he said, that the United States is daily violating our airspace and territorial waters. Additionally, the United States threatens people with starvation. This is really terrorism.

Dr al-'Azbi added: Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has often made this clear and denied that Libya is a scene of bases for terrorism. In a recent interview with the Italian paper GIORNALE DI SICILIA, Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud challenged the Italian security departments to provide any material evidence that the Jamahiriyah has any connection with what is happening in Italy. Nevertheless, the Italian press continues to accuse us of terror--an accusation which is part of the irresponsible international bias.

MAURITANIA

MATERIALS ON FOLLOWUP ACTIONS AFTER COUP ATTEMPT

Moroccans' Expulsion Deadline

AB191529 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] A communique we received from the Mauritanian press agency this morning announces, and I quote: Our country has decided to expell all Moroccan diplomats from our national territory. They have until next Saturday to leave the country. The Mauritanian Government will ensure the safety and the lives of the Moroccan citizens for as long as they are in Mauritainia.

Casualty Figures

AB191501 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Twenty-eight dead, including 13 civilians, and 6 injured; these are the figures for the aggression perpetrated last monday against Nouakchott by a commando in the pay of Morocco.

Commentary on Morocco

LD192358 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Mar 81

["Mauritanian press agency" commentary]

[Text] As was expected, Morocco, through its prime minister, Maati Bouabid, denied participation in the plot aborted last Monday in Nouakchott by our armed and security forces--the plot whose executers confirmed that they were trained in Moroccan military camps before they were sent to Nouakchott to bring down our regime by violent means. The accusations made by Mauritania against Morocco are based on proofs that leave no room for any doubt.

Yesterday, Lt Col M. Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, in his address to the nation, reviewed all the details of Morocco's objectives and the means it used in its vile attempt at destroying the Mauritanian state. The facts need no comment because they speak for themselves, and it is ridiculous for the Moroccan Government to attempt to clear the expansionist and bloody Rabat regime. The claim by Bouabid that Mauritanian allegations were false and unfounded and that Moroccan policy depended on noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries could have been [word indistinct] had it not been for his declaration that the deterioration of Moroccan-Mauritanian relations went back to the signing by Mauritania of a peace treaty with the Polisario. Bouabid said that since that date Mauritania had pursued an increasingly anti-Moroccan policy. Thus the Moroccan prime minister must have said something that he should not have said, because reading further into this declaration shows that Rabat sees Mauritania as a subordinate country that has no rights and no authority; and what is more, has no power to sign any external agreement without the previous approval and blessing of the Moroccan regime. This means that cooperation between the two countries is formed on the basis of the will and domination of the stronger and loyality in foreign policy to his majesty.

Mauritania believes its relations with its neighbors, as is the case with the rest of the world, should not be based on force and threats but rather on respect for its sovereignty. Our sovereignty and territorial integrity cannot be subject to bargaining, and Mauritanian national sovereignty is not a commodity that can be sold and bought; it is above everything. From this, one concludes that the Algiers agreement and our country's withdrawal from the unjust war in the Western Sahara and the good relations we have with the Polisario are acts of sovereignty which neither Morocco nor anyone else has the right to oppose or criticize.

There is another idea in the official statement which has been harped on and which must be examined and told to the Moroccan regime: We mean Moroccan aid to Mauritania. Here we confirmed that aid, no matter how generous, remains rejected if it is aimed at harming our sovereignty or violates the principles of dignity, honor and independence, which every self-respecting state observes. This, in short, is what we should say about bilateral cooperation with Morocco. What remains to be said is that the deterioration of this cooperation goes back to the emergence of the 10th July movement, that is when the Mauritanian Army and people decided to end the occupation of our national territory by the Moroccan forces and to implement a political, economic, social and diplomatic program aimed at saving the country from foreign domination and trusteeship. Since then, Moroccan officials and their official and semiofficial propaganda organs have been working to bring Mauritania back to obedience. The Moroccan king never ceased to curse the Mauritanian state, openly and in private, and world public opinion still recalls the king's statement in 1970 when he said that Mauritania did not exist and that it is a (?floating) entity, and the king never ceased repeating his famous remark that the Mauritanian military regime is unpopular. All those statements call for ridicule when one remembers that they are made by a bloodthirsty king. Yet to Mr Bouabid all this does not constitute interference in the internal affairs of Mauritania, because he considers the internal affairs of Mauritania to mean submission to the desires of the king. This is the secret to the impossibility of finding a common language between Rabat and Nouakchott, because the interests and objectives, as both sides understand them, are contradictory.

The Moroccan prime minister says that his country has proved its peaceability and wisdom and that Mauritania shoulders full responsibility for the aggravation of the situation and the resulting developments. Although this does not require a (?denial), we reconfirm our firm attitude, which is that Mauritania wants to preserve its independence and territorial integrity and will achieve this through the mobilization of all its sons and thanks to the confirmation and consolidation of its national rights and basic interests. Morocco should understand this because our cause is just and God is with those who defend just causes. This applies to the state as well as to the Mauritanian people, and the crimes of the Moroccan regime will not influence the fraternal and historic relations between the Mauritanian and Moroccan peoples. The Mauritanian people will not spare any effort to consolidate those relations because the fraternal Moroccan people are the foremost victims of the Rabat royalist regime, which is considered an historical mistake. The Moroccan people, like all peoples of the world, look forward to a majority rule, dignity and independence and this makes us confident that their conscience rejects and condemns the king's expansionist policy, inasmuch as it rejects and condemns the violation and usurpation of its rights inside Morocco.

Nonaligned, UN Briefings

AB201002 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Our permanent representative at the United Nations yesterday morning held a discussion with the chairman of the group of nonaligned countries. He also held talks with the UN secretary general on Tuesday and with the presidents of the UN General Assembly and Security Council on Monday.

During all these contacts, our permanent representative made a report on the objective circumstances and results of the treacherous attack against our country by mercenaries in the pay of Rabat. Tuesday, our representative also sent a letter to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in which he reported on the events of 16 March.

MOROCCO

LE MONDE CITES MOROCCAN VIEWS OF MAURITANIAN EVENTS

LD191025 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Mar 81 p 3

["R.D." report: "Rabat: We Are Not Implicated in Any Way"]

[Text] Rabat--"We are not in any way implicated in this attempted putsch," [Moroccan] Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Tazi told us on Monday 16 March. Denying Nouakchott's allegations that Morocco instigated the abortive coup d'etat, he added: "We have recently noted an escalation in Mauritania's statements. That was again the case last Friday, with the Mauritanian prime minister's warning to Morocco. Our foreign minister, Boucetta, replied to that on Saturday in a statement to Mediterranean international radio." "We are still in favor of frank and sincere cooperation with Mauritania," Mr Tazi added. "We could have launched an attack when we had 12,000 soldiers there. We do not want to interfere in its internal policy. Indeed, the Mauritanians have internal quarrels and are trying to conceal them by seeking a scapegoat and pointing at Morocco."

In the statement in question Mr Boucetta repeated that "Morocco would not sit back and do nothing if attacks or an aggression were launched from Mauritanian territory." He had added: "According to confirmed reports it seems that there are movements by and even the installation of mercenary gangs on Mauritanian territory."

It is being pointed out here that there is a 1,000 km border separating the two countries and that it is not possible to monitor it all. It is also being said that Col (Ahmed Salam Ould Sidi), who was arrested after the abortive coup d'etat, was one of the signatories of the agreement reached in Algiers on 5 August 1979 between Mauritania and the Polisario and was, therefore, not "pro-Moroccan."

Moreover, Lt Col Mohamed Ould Ba Abdel Kader had founded a free officers' front in Rabat in August 1979, with the aim of opposing the Mauritanian Government, but he was also one of the founders of the Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania and made frequent visits to Paris and Dakar. In Rabat's view the attempted putsch is purely an internal Mauritanian affair.

REPORTS OF P[illegible] MEETING WITH KING HASSAN DENIED

LD201156 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 20 Mar (MAP)--Moroccan Minister of Information Dr Abdelwahid Belakziz has issued a categorical denial of reports that His Majesty King Hassan II is supposed to have met the leader of the Israeli opposition, Shim'on Peres, on Thursday in Marrakech.

Describing such reports as purely and simply a plot, the minister said that such reports are part of a poisonous campaign mounted by Zionist circles and exploited by the enemies of Morocco to sow discord in the ranks of the Arab and Muslim nation, especially in the wake of the successes scored by the Al-Quds Committee chaired by King Hassan II. Dr Abdelwahid Belakziz did not rule the possibility that these so-called revelations, not the first of their kind, could also be linked with the Israeli election campaign in Israel.

SOMALIA

FRONT REJECTS MEDIATION WITHOUT RECOGNITION

JN191447 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Mar (QNA)--The Western Somalia Liberation Front has declared its rejection of any mediation that does not take into consideration the rights of western Somalia and does not recognize the front as the sole representative of the western Somali people.

This came in a statement issued by the front here today and carried by EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY.

The statement was published following OAU attempts to restore peace in the Horn of Africa through Siaka Stevens, the president of Sierra Leone, in his capacity as the OAU's present chairman, who visited Addis Ababa and is visiting Djibouti and Somalia to discuss this issue.

UGANDA

ANTI-OBOTE GUERRILLAS ATTACK NEAR KAMPALA

AB200835 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 20 Mar 81

[By Francois Robinet]

[Text] Nairobi, 20 Mar (AFP)--Attacks by guerrillas hostile to Ugandan President Milton Obote have been followed by political and press repression, according to reports reaching here. The anti-Obote guerrillas this week reportedly carried their attacks to the very outskirts of Kampala, the Ugandan capital.

In a Monday night ambush at Kawanda, 14 kilometers (8.5 miles) from Kampala, an armed band killed about 30 people and destroyed two trucks and three Landrovers.

Guerrilla sources said that on the following morning, when government reinforcements were called in, a further 46 people were killed in an attack against Kawempe, only five kilometers (three miles) from the capital.

Last month, eight police posts, the Luzira prison, and the Kabamba Military College in western Uganda all came under attack during three days of intense guerrilla activity.

Sources close to the clandestine Ugandan Movement for the Struggle for Political Rights (MOSPOR) said this week's attacks were organized by forces loyal to Yoweri Museveni, former defense minister and vice-chairman of the ruling military committee which was in power until the recent election of President Obote.

These sources announced the formation in Uganda of a Popular Resistance Army (PRA), grouping the dissident forces of MOSPOR, the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), and others. Since the upsurge of military violence, there has reportedly been a sharp deterioration of the political situation, which seemed to be easing only two months ago.

Reports reaching here tell of the arrest of two parliamentarians of the Democratic Party (the official opposition) and the detention of the whole general staff of the pro-Museveni Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM). The same reports mention widespread arrests throughout Uganda and say that President Obote has sent messages of condolence to the families of victims of massacres and pillage by the security forces. In a switch from Uganda's relative freedom of the press recently, four newspapers were banned by government order on Tuesday.

CAMEROON

OIL, GAS DISCOVERED IN SOUTHWESTERN REGION

AB190900 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Oil and gas have been discovered by the Elf-Serepca and the Pecten Cameroon Exploration Company in Cameroon waters just out of Iadabat in the (?southwestern) region. The drilling which was carried out south of Iadabat reached a depth of over 1,800 meters and led to the discovery of two wells, one containing gas and the other oil. An initial statement from the general secretariat of the presidency says further exploration will be carried out to determine the commercial value of the find.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

SUPREME COURT DECLARES DACKO WINNER OF ELECTIONS

AB192044 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1912 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] [Words indistinct] to give the results of the elections which took place on 15 March 1981 in order to appoint the one who will be the head of the CAR. But first of all, I would like to go over to (Mr Chante Edouard) who is the president of the Supreme Court to give the results of the elections:

[Begin recording] On behalf of the Central African people, the Supreme Court meeting in a plenary session on Thursday, 19 March 1981, at 1730 in Bangui, gave the following judgment:

Considering the constitution of 5 February 1981 and especially Articles 64 and 78; considering Act No 61/249 of 16 November 1961 concerning the organization of the (?proceedings) of the Supreme Court; considering the Ordinance No 80/88 of 22 December 1980, concerning elections; considering Ordinance No 81/035 of 7 January, 1981 relating to the election of the president of the republic; considering the Decree No 81/073, of 8 February 1981 calling on electors for the election of the president of the republic; considering the Supreme Court decree dated 25 February 1981 on the closing of the list of candidates for the presidential election; considering the minutes of 19 March 1981 on the general [words indistinct] of 15 March 1981 relating to the election of the president of the republic [words indistinct] give the following results:

Number of registered voters:	971,395	
Number of votes cast:	744,692	
Number of votes obtained:		
Mr David Dacko		374,500, being 50.33 percent of votes cast
Ange Patasse		283,739, being 38.11 percent of votes cast
Francois Pehoua		39,861, being 7.33 percent of votes cast
Henrie Maidou		24,700, being 3.24 percent of votes cast
Goumba-Guende Abel		10,512, being 1.48 percent of votes cast

In view of the figures given, Mr David Dacko is declared elected president of the CAR on the first ballot with an absolute majority of 50.33 percent of the votes cast. [end recording]

PATASSE BACKERS BATTLE SECURITY FORCES IN BANGUI

AB200941 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 20 Mar (AFP)--Youths led by activitists of presidential candidate Ange Patasse's party were fighting security forces in the center of Bangui today. Mr. Patasse was beaten in Sunday's presidential election in the Central African Republic by incumbent David Dacko, according to an official announcement yesterday. He won 38.11 percent of votes cast against 50.23 [as received] for Mr. Dacko.

The youths, numbering about 2,000, gathered early today in the capital's Avenue of Martyrs. After being dispersed with teargas, they regrouped and were attempting to force a police barrier.

The violence followed some looting during the night of European property on the outskirts of Bangui by young supporters of Mr. Patasse's Centrafrican People's Liberation Movement, despite imposition of a curfew. They also burned market stalls belonging to Dacko sympathisers, a reliable source said.

In a broadcast Mr. Dacko today said he would do everything to keep the situation calm and called on the three unsuccessful presidential candidates to cooperate with him.

DACKO DECREES STATE OF SIEGE, DISSOLVES GOVERNMENT

AB201312 Paris AFP in French 1228 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] 20 Mar (AFP)--A state of siege was decreed throughout the territory of the Central African Republic on Friday morning by President David Dacko, who also dissolved the government. In breaking the news on the radio on Friday, Mr David Dacko pointed out that many people had been injured in Bangui and that there had been acts of pillage in Bosanga--Mr Ange Patasse's hometown (300 km northwest of Bangui) during the night. According to reliable sources, there were some 60 injured in Bangui as a result of the demonstration staged by young people.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister General Sana said in a radio broadcast that the military authorities under the chief of the general staff, General Kolingba, are in charge of the police and peace-keeping.

He also pointed out that if necessary the army will use arms against all troublemakers, whatever party they belong to. Friday morning a number of young demonstrators organized by militants of the Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC), headed by Mr Ange Patasse (who has just been defeated in the presidential election by Mr David Dacko), headed toward the center of the capital. Later in the morning they were stopped 500 meters from the State House and about 1 km from the French Embassy.

In a radio interview at 1245, a representative of Mr Ange Patasse appealed for calm and urged the MPC militants to return home. We do not want to be considered troublemakers, the spokesman added. It was only at the last minute that the Central African radio announced that the head of state had dissolved the CAR Government.

ZAIRE

LOKUMBA QUESTIONED ON AREA ISSUES, FRENCH TIES

AB191755 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The deputy first state commissioner and state commissioner for foreign affairs, Citizen Bomkoko Lokumba, has presided over the Franco-Zairian joint commission. He was received yesterday evening by the French president, Mr Valery Giscard d'Estaing, at the Elysee. Their discussions centered on Franco-Zairian bilateral relations and the prevailing situation in Africa. At the end of his audience he was interviewed by our French counterparts:

[Begin recording] [Lokumba] Obviously, we discussed problems concerning the African Continent. We talked about the Franco-African summit--as you know, the next summit will be held in Kinshasa--relations between the North and South, that is, economic problems and we also discussed certain problems prevailing in Africa.

[Question] Talking about the situation in West Africa, what do you think about the recent attempted coup in Mauritania.

[Answer] Well, this coup d'etat took place while I was here in Paris. I am not competent to comment on the situation. But what I can say is that, in Zaire, we are against anything that destabilizes African countries.

[Question] What about the recent coup attempt in Sudan which is near to your country?

[Answer] We deplore such situations. This is not the first time that another country has tried to destabilize Sudan. Zaire is against any attempt of destabilization, because [words indistinct] in this period of world crisis.

[Question] And Chad?

[Answer] We talked vaguely about the Chadian problem. But, as you know, my country is in favor of respecting the Lagos accord.

[Question] May I know what you think about President Reagan's decision to further reduce aid for the Third World countries.

[Answer] I think the American administration has been approached on this question in order to maintain the aid to the Third World. I think we were given some assurance, at least as far as Africa is concerned, that this aid will be maintained, especially the United States' participation in funds such as (?USAID). [end recording]

Citizen Bomboko Lokumba also raised the question of Franco-Zairian bilateral relations during his audience with the French president. Here are the answers he gave to questions from the French press.

[Begin recording] [Lokumba] I delivered a message from President Mobutu to President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. Obviously we talked about bilateral relations. As you know, I am here in Paris at the head of the Zairian delegation to the Franco-Zairian joint commission. At the meeting naturally, we also raised some African problems.

[Question] On the Zairian side, the big problem concerns French private investments in Zaire. [Words indistinct] Did you get some assurances from the French Government?

[Answer] Well, on both the French and Zairian sides, we are going to unite our efforts to ensure that French investors become interested in Zaire.

[Question] How are you going to reassure them?

[Answer] Well, you know very well that for an investor to go to any country, he puts down certain conditions. I think the first condition is that of security of investments. As I said yesterday, as far as security is concerned, thanks to the military assistance given to us by France, there is security in our country. You must also reassure a private investor by an economic policy which respects private initiative and which respects the capital invested. To this end, our president, President Mobutu Sese Seko has voiced and furthermore practices respect for private initiative; and we are gradually heading toward a liberal economy [words indistinct].

[Question] Talking precisely about Franco-Zairian relations, to what extent should this relationship be improved?

[Answer] I think we in Zaire are satisfied with the relationship which exists between our country and France. First of all, it should be noted that Zaire is a Francophone country, and therefore our relations are closely linked to the language. For the moment there is nothing which stands in the way of our relations. [end recording]

GHANA

COUNCIL OF STATE, GROUPS PROTEST GHANAIANS' DEATHS

AB191911 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The Council of State has urged the government to take the strongest diplomatic measures consistent with the gravity of the situation created by the death of 46 Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast. In a message to President Limann signed by its chairman, Mr William Ofori-Atta, the council expressed resentment and indignation at the cruel treatment (?of the deceased) by the Ivorian authorities.

The Ghana United Nations Association and the Ghana United Nations Students and Youth Association have also condemned the incident. In a joint statement they said it is unfortunate that such an incident should occur at a time when the OAU and the UN are [words indistinct] the ideals of human rights, equality and justice as prerequisites of peaceful coexistence. The statement said the incident makes a mockery of African unity. It says it should be realized that it is meaningless to talk about liberation and apartheid when such acts continue to be committed by independent African countries against innocent citizens from sister African states. As a matter of urgency the two associations called on the Ghana Government to demand the exhumation of all the 46 bodies so that they can be buried in their respective hometowns at the expense of the Ivorian Government.

Meanwhile the government has declared this weekend a period of mourning for the 46 Ghanaians who died in a police cell in the Ivory Coast. In this connection, the president, Dr Hilla Limann will attend a nondenominational church service at the State House at 0900 on Saturday. The service will be attended by cabinet minister and other dignitaries. Special prayers will be said by Moslems on Friday, March 20, while Christian churches are expected to pray for the repose of the souls of the dead on Sunday, 22 March. The government has further directed that flags should fly at half mast during the period of mourning.

GUINEA-BISSAU

OFFICIALS ARRESTED IN ANTICORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

AB181414 Paris AFP in French 1149 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Bissau, 18 Mar (AFP)--Two cases of corruption have been discovered for the first time by the commission of inquiry set up after the coup d'etat in Guinea-Bissau last 14 November. It involves the brewery company of Guinea-Bissau (Cicer), a mixed ownership enterprise owned by people from both Guinea-Bissau and Portugal. Its director general, Mr Joao Cardoso, has been relieved of his duties and its treasurer, Mr Miguel Fereira da Silva, has been arrested.

The commission of inquiry gave no details on the charges against these two people accused of corruption but it disclosed that it had detected irregularities in the management of the Cicer. Corruption was one of the main accusations of the new Guinea-Bissau leaders against the regime of Mr Luiz Cabral, which was overthrown by the coup d'etat.

People's Stores Directors

AB200805 Paris AFP in English 0743 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Bissau, 20 Mar (AFP)--Two high officials were arrested here yesterday in a crackdown against corruption announced by the council of the revolution which seized power in Guinea-Bissau by a coup d'etat last November.

Francisco Coutinho and Adelino Mogeira, director and deputy director of the state-run People's Stores, were put under arrest. Mr. Coutinho is the brother-in-law of overthrown President Luis Cabral, who has been held here since the November 14 coup.

Armando Ramos, former minister for commerce and industry, was at the same time put under house arrest. As minister responsible for the People's Stores, he was accused of negligence and improper use of funds. Mr. Coutinho was accused of mismanagement and embezzlement, and his deputy was accused of conniving with him.

The role of the People's Stores, through its nationwide network, was to sell consumer goods and buy peasant harvests for distribution or export. The system started during the guerrilla struggle which began in 1963 against Portuguese colonial rule, and it was one of the most dynamic socio-economic creations of the freedom-fighters.

Meanwhile, two main directors of the state-owned Dicol (gasoline and gas distribution) Company were fired from their positions as part of the anti-corruption campaign.

LIBERIA

AFP REPORTS RECENT CENTRAL BANK MEASURES, EFFECTS

AB191521 Paris AFP in French 118 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Monrovia, 19 Mar (AFP)--The only private bank in Liberia has been officially closed down. This was learned on Wednesday from sources close to the Association of Liberian Bankers. This bank, the Bank of Liberia, founded in 1955, includes among its founding shareholders three big Liberian families, including that of former President William Tolbert. The Chemical Bank of New York, which holds 48 percent of its original capital, withdrew its capital a little after the 12 April coup d'etat of last year. The Bank of Liberia, which until 1979 was the biggest in the country, still held 30 percent of the Liberian banking market in April 1980, financial circles in Monrovia confirm.

The acting governor of the National Bank of Liberia, who announced on Tuesday the taking-over of the Bank of Liberia by the central bank, specified that it will remain closed for all operations. This statement, however, immediately created some confusion; the justice minister and some top officials of the central bank seem to disagree with the exact significance of these measures. Official circles were maintaining complete silence on this affair on Wednesday.

The Bank of Liberia, the governor of the central bank said on Tuesday, has an overdraft of $21 million from the central bank, and its financial situation is continuously on the decline because of its inability to recover loans given to its customers.

Banking circles in Monrovia seem to be happy about these measures, while trying to avoid taking any official stand. We are happy, said a banker who wants to remain anonymous. These measures should have been taken 2 years ago. In the long run, these measures will revive the banking market. The millions of dollars which the central bank injected into the Bank of Liberia were in fact too much for it and that was one of the reasons why a major part of the reserve deposits (15 percent of liquid assets) was [word indistinct] of the commercial banks.

The short-term consequences, concedes the same banker, can be very heavy for the country's economy: The law gives a period of 30 days during which shareholders of the Bank of Liberia can appeal. Even if the head of state has expressed his willingness to see the interest of depositors safeguarded, these people in any case, will not be able to get their money back for several months. But then, among the many customers of the Bank of Liberia whose deposits will thus be immobilized are the two major iron mining companies of the country: Bong Mines and Liberian American Swedish Minerals Company (LAMCO). Iron, observers stress, constitutes the main source of revenue for Liberia.

CEREMONY TO MARK COMMANDER'S RETURN TO DUTY

AB200735 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] The National Defense Ministry yesterday announced in Monrovia that the commanding general of the armed forces, Brig Gen Thomas Quiwonkpa, and his new deputy, Col (Morris Zeze), will today, Friday, be officially welcomed to the Barclay Training Center, the BTC.

General Quiwonkpa left the BTC for the last 4 months to undergo optical treatment at the Firestone Hospital outside Monrovia. His deputy, Colonel (Zeze), succeeded Col Larry Bather last month in a [word indistinct] reshuffle in the ranks of the army. The program today is expected to begin at 1600.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE RETURNS FROM 2-DAY VISIT TO MOROCCO

AB181628 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, Col Seyni Kountche, returned to Niamey this afternoon after a 48-hour stay in Marrakech, Morocco. Last night the head of state held a private talk with King Hassan II, now staying in that city. The talks followed a dinner in honor of President Kountche, who also received Niger nationals living in Morocco.

He was received upon arrival in Niamey by Quartermaster Moussa Tondi, and the chief of the general staff of the national armed forces, Lt Col Ali Cheick. After listening to the national anthem and reviewing a guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the Niger national army, the head of state greeted members of the government and the diplomatic corps. In the VIP lounge, President Kountche told newsmen of his satisfaction over his short stay in Morocco:

[Begin recording] [Kountche] During the visit, we held talks with His Majesty King Hassan II. The talks were meant to strengthen and widen the framework of cooperation between Morocco and Niger. The short stay will make it possible to give a new impetus to our cooperation.

[Question] Mr President, Morocco is known to have long experience in the exploitation of phosphate. Can we expect a more rapid establishment of bilateral cooperation in this sector as part of measures to exploit our own deposits?

[Answer] I have just mentioned the diversification of the areas of cooperation. This applies to three sectors in particular: The exploitation of phosphate, given Morocco's experience in the sphere. It must be recalled that the studies on our potential resources have progressed greatly. We believe that in this sector as well as any other sector, we have to seek cooperation with any country so that we will not be entirely dependent on (?uranium), because the marketing situation is currently precarious. We have expressed to our Moroccan friends our desire to materialize cooperation in this sector very expeditiously. The second sector is manpower training. The third one is the hotel industry. In spite of the construction of the (Ndao) hotel, Niamey will only have a capacity of (?520) rooms, which is [word indistinct] all the same.

All in all, we are fully satisfied with our talks and feel confident about the future of our cooperation with Morocco, be it in the sector of phosphates, training, or tourism. [end recording]

NIGERIA

SHAGARI SEEKS WAYS TO IMPROVE TRADE WITH UK

AB191109 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Nigeria is seeking ways for more export to Britain to correct the trade imbalance between the two countries. This was one of the proposals put forward by the Nigerian leader, President Shehu Shagari, during talks with the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in London yesterday.

The proposals included a renewed British policy toward Nigeria's development in agriculture, agro-allied industries and housing. British exports to Nigeria last year amounted to 1.6 billion naira as against Nigeria's exports of 200 million naira. A correspondent in his dispatch yesterday said another issue discussed, and which seemed to be of crucial importance to Britain, is the supply of 1 billion naira worth of military hardware to the Nigerian armed forces.

One other matter examined is the 300 percent increase in fees for foreign students in British institutions which the Nigerian officials described as incredible.

PAPERS REPORT BENINESE TROOP INCURSIONS IN SOKOTO

AB191808 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Some papers report that troops from the Republic of Benin have made an unprecedented incursion into a number of Nigerian villages in Sokoto state. The NEW NIGERIAN, the NATIONAL CONCORD, the NIGERIAN TRIBUNE and the DAILY STAR give this news. They said they got their information from a district head in Sokoto state.

The papers have it that even the Sokoto state governor, Alhaji Shehu Kanjiwa, was refused entry into one of the villages occupied by the soldiers. Their story is that the Beninese troops occupied the area because of what that country called a border dispute with Nigeria, even though a committee has been set up to look into the dispute.

Press Comment

AB201039 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The alleged occupation of some villages in Sokoto state by troops from the Republic of Benin is the subject for discussion by the DAILY SKETCH and the NIGERIAN HERALD. Both papers regard the presence of the troops on Nigerian territory as an unprovoked aggression which must be checked by force. They also stress the need to intensify vigilance at the nation's borders to forestall such incidents.

The SKETCH wonders why the nation's security agencies were unable to detect the invasion until the Beninese had crossed [words indistict].

The HERALD finds it difficult to justify the action since, according to it, there is no border dispute between Nigeria and Benin Republic.

ANGOLA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ON U.S. POLICY, PRETORIA ATTACKS

LD201112 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 20 Mar 81 EA

[Statement issued by the office of the Angolan minister of defense on 19 March]

[Text] Since the beginning of 1981, with the coming to power of the Reagan administration in the White House, the public has been witnessing an escalation of attacks by racist South Africa against the frontline countries.

However, as a pretext for the escalation of their attacks, the South African racists attempt to advance the subtle argument of pursuing freedom fighters who are fighting for the total liberation of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa from the yoke of colonialism and racism. The true objective of the South African racists--running dogs of the U.S. policy in the southern part of our continent--is to destabilize the revolutionary process underway in the young, progressive countries of southern Africa and to bring about the downfall of the progressive governments so it can install new puppets, who should be the sweet defenders of their capitalist interests and open the doors to an unrestrained exploitation of our peoples and our resources by the imperialist powers, through their multinationals.

It is, therefore, part of this strategy that the CIA maneuvers in Mozambique and the recent attack by the Pretoria racist forces against that sovereign territory have occurred, as well as the almost daily and constant attacks against the free and sovereign territory of the Peoples Republic of Angola and its heroic people.

As evidence of this escalation of attacks on our country by the South African racist forces, in January and February this year there were no less than 150 reconnaissance flights; 10 air raids; 4 airborne troop landings; 2 helicopter raids; 1 artillery shelling; 6 ground attacks; 2 concentrations of fully-armed troops; and 6 machinegunning aircraft attacks. They resulted in the death of 28 soldiers and 7 civilians, the destruction of 6 vehicles and a great deal of material damage.

In March this year the characteristics of the South African escalation against our country have not changed. There have been deep penetrations by reconnaissance flights of the South African racist air force inside our country, covering mainly the areas of strategic importance in the provinces of Mocamedes and Huila. The Defense Ministry wishes to denounce the following actions as major operations carried out by the South African Air Force in March:

On 12 March, two South African aircraft machinegunned a primary school at Mupa commune, killing five children.

On 13 March, at 1519, two South African aircraft machinegunned a column of our troops who were moving on the Ngiva-Changonga road, destroying an (?H-65) vehicle. On the same day, at about 1630, two South African aircraft machinegunned a border troop detachment which was moving on the Changonga-Ngiva road, seriously wounding four soldiers.

On 17 March, at 1232, five South African Mirage aircraft overflew Lubango and bombed an agricultural area between Lubango and Humpata, wounding five people--three children and two women.

Also on the 17th, at about 1630, South African helicopters bombed Mapenge and (Chatetera) areas to the south of Changonga, causing no damage.

The South African racists and the new Reagan administration do not want to learn the lessons of history. They think that with their adventurist policy and direct intervention, they will force our heroic people to retreat from their unwavering resolve to support unconditionally the liberation struggle that the peoples of Namibia and South Africa--led by their revolutionary vanguards, SWAPO and ANC, respectively--are waging to exterminate the ignoble apartheid regime from the face of the earth, once and for all.

The South African regime shall not pass. Namibia and South Africa shall be free. The CIA will be unmasked. The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

[Signed] Col Pedro Maria Tonha Padale, office of the minister of defense; Luanda, 19 March

BOTSWANA

GABORONE REPORTS INCIDENTS OF CAPRIVI STRIP BORDER

LD191546 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 19 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The Office of the President announced today that there have been several border incidents at Ngoma Bridge in the Chobe Game part this week. A shot was fired from the Caprivi, at the Botswana Defense Force (?deployed) near Ngoma on Monday but the Botswana Defense Force [BDF] did not return fire. A similar incident occurred the following day, that is Tuesday 17th, when shots were fired at the BDF patrol from three defense positions in the Caprivi. At this point the BDF returned the fire and the men dressed in army uniforms fled in the bush. Yesterday morning two troop-carriers, four armored cars and a helicopter arrived at the Caprivi side of the bridge and the soldiers requested a meeting with the senior BDF officer (?through a loud-hailer), but the BDF did not reply to the request. (?A spokesman for) the enemy forces said the BDF had killed one of them and that in the absence of a meeting they would be forced to launch an attack into Botswana. A protest has been lodged with the department of foreign affairs in Pretoria this morning and an assurance has been given that an attack would not be launched against Botswana and that the matter would be investigated.

MOZAMBIQUE

MAPUTO CARRIES EYEWITNESS REPORT ON 17 MAR

LD191228 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 19 Mar 81 EA

[Text] A Ministry of Information spokesman said yesterday that the South African attack in the Ponta do Ouro area constituted a grave violation of the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Mozambique and an escalation of brinkmanship and aggression against this country. Stressing that the dead South African soldier carried no means of identification, the spokesman said this confirmed that the South African forces operating inside our country in no way wished to be identified.

A soldier of the FPLM [Mozambique Armed Forces] border unit in Ponta do Ouro told the Mozambique News Agency about his participation in the fighting against South African forces. The soldier (Pinto Filipe) [name indistinct] said that as soon as they realized the enemy's intentions, our defense and security forces advanced from the tourist center on the South African forces based on the hill which separates Mozambique from South Africa. He said: As we were climbing the hill we (?were apprehended and the enemy opened fire). We (?did not) return the fire immediately, the soldier said, adding that during the fighting, there must have been about 20 soldiers, all of them white and including two sergeants and a corporal. We recognized the latter by the badges of rank on the sleeves of their (?uniforms). (Pinto Filipe) [name indistinct] said the South Africans then concentrated a large number of troops along the border in an attempt to relieve those of their troops encircled by our forces on the hill. Earlier, these reinforcements attempted to block the path leading to the small airstrip in the settlement and the Ponta do Ouro-Maputo Road. The FLPM soldier said the encircled South African force fled at about 1500 under cover of dense undergrowth on the hill.

SOUTH AFRICA

35 SWAPO TERRORISTS REPORTED KILLED IN OVAMBO

LD191206 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] A communique issued in Windhoek says 35 terrorists were killed in actions during the past week, bringing the number of SWAPO deaths so far this year to 318. The terrorists murdered two civilians in Ovambo and seven others lost their lives when the vehicle they were traveling in detonated a landmine. The insurgents sabotaged a water pipeline, a bridge and some telephone poles.

The communique says that 11 of the dead terrorists were in a group which ambushed a patrol of the South African police in northwestern Ovambo. The police fought their way out of the trap, spotted the insurgents and hunted them down as they fled through the bush.

TRANSKEI WOULD ACCEPT WESTERN NAVAL PRESENCE

LD191116 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 18 Mar 81 CA

[Text] President Matanzima of Transkei says the presence of the Soviet Navy in Maputo is an indication of the nature of events to be expected in South Africa. Opening the 9th session of the first Transkei Parliament, he said that although his country followed a policy of nonalignment it would accept the naval presence of the democratic world in territorial waters for the defense of free and peaceful societies. He said a superpower such as the United States should declare its stand in the event of communist aggression against South Africa, which had diplomatic and economic ties with Transkei. President Matanzima said the international community, led by the Third World, had now found a weapon in sport to isolate South Africa, while on the other hand refusing to allow Transkei teams to take part. The intention was to demoralize the people of South Africa and to (?find soft) ground for terrorist infiltration.

ZIMBABWE

SIAKA STEVENS ADDRESSES LUNCHEON, DIPLOMAT MEETING

LD191052 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, today assured the visiting Sierra Leonean leader, Dr Siaka Stevens, that Zimbabwe is determined to establish a sincere, united and strong nation. The prime minister was speaking at a luncheon given in honor of Dr Stevens who is also the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity. Comrade Mugabe again thanked the OAU for all the moral, political and material support extended to the people of Zimbabwe during the hard and arduous struggle for national independence. He added: The sacrifices of Africa and of our own people cannot be allowed to go in vain through narrowmindedness, partisan politics and divisionism. Comrade Mugabe pledged Zimbabwe's firm commitment to the OAU Charter and assured Dr Stevens of the country's fullest support to the struggles in Namibia and South Africa. Urging the OAU to make its decision on the Western Saharan situation, Comrade Mugabe said Zimbabwe strongly condemns Morocco for its intransigence over granting the people of that country the right to self-determination and independence. He also condemned the aggressive and hostile posture of racist Pretoria which, he said, is directed at preventing the consolidation of our independence and the attainment of Zimbabwe's economic liberation. Comrade Mugabe stressed that the southern African development coordination conference held last year is aimed at reducing Zimbabwe's dependence on apartheid-ruled South Africa.

In reply Dr Stevens reiterated that besides intensifying the armed struggle in South Africa and Namibia, Africa should also resort to the industrial front to destroy the Pretoria regime's main industrial power base. He said this would help bring the regime onto its knees as well as to force it into respecting world opinion on the question of independence for Namibia.

The prime minister also announced at the luncheon that Zimbabwe is to host a summit meeting of the southern African development coordinating conference in July. Comrade Mugabe said it is in accordance with both our national and international spirit that we seek to consolidate our political independence with economic independence that shares the common feature of interdependence with other related economies on a mutual basis. Comrade Mugabe said the nine African states in southern Africa are hoping to lessen their dependence on racist South Africa and other countries on which we have tended to rely to the detriment of our own economic systems and the viability of our political systems.

Remarks to Mission Chiefs

LD201620 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 18 Mar 81 CA

[Text] A total of 10 heads of diplomatic missions of OAU member states this morning called on the visiting Sierra Leonè leader, Dr Siaka Stevens, at the state guest house in Salisbury. Addressing the diplomats, Dr Stevens said the OAU will not give up its efforts to achieve national independence for Namibia and in the Western Sahara. Dr Stevens said besides intensifying the armed struggle in Namibia and South Africa, Africa should take industrial action to force the racist Pretoria regime to the negotiating table. He said the racist regime's nuclear capability will be of no consequence to the progress of the guerrilla armed struggle being waged in South Africa and Namibia.

Stressing the need for unity in Africa, the president called for closer communication links and [word indistinct] consultations among African states to avoid misunderstandings which have often led to open conflict. He also said that among his proposals to be submitted at the forthcoming OAU summit in Nairobi, Kenya, will be a call for the formation of a committee that will take immediate action on any conflicts between member nations. The 10 heads of missions who attended were diplomats from Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Angola, Zaire, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt and Algeria.

Later, Dr Stevens, accompanied by President Banana and the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, flew by helicopters to Heroes' Acre, where he laid a wreath in honor of Zimbabwe's national heroes who fell during the struggle.

NKOMO ACCUSES ZBC OF BIAS TOWARD ZANU-PF

LD171630 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The government minister without portfolio, Comrade Joshua Nkomo, has appealed to Zimbabweans to use the vote if they want to change the government. Comrade Nkomo told a meeting at Nkosikazi in the southern part of Matabeleland that the country does not want another war. He said people can criticize their government if they feel that there is something wrong but they can only use the ballot box to change it.

Comrade Nkomo renewed his criticism of the ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation], accusing it of bias in favor of ZANU-PF, the party that won 57 parliamentary seats in last year's elections against 20 of his own party, ZAPU.